

S.I.F.D. NEWS

JANUARY 2012



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

I hope you enjoy the new look SIFD News, now laid out slightly differently. I'd be glad to receive any feedback about it.

The cover picture, from 1983, is by Lesley Boorer and the motif is of Latvian dancers. The SIFD Committee details are on page 15. The 2012 list of honorary members is on the back page.

There are articles from two SIFD groups - the **Matlock U3A Group**, and the **Bexhill International Folk Dance Group**. Also plenty of news about future events.

Happy New Year with lots of enjoyable dancing for all. **Ed.**



The Frank Flanagan Fund – News and a request for your help

Among the ideas put forward for using the money so generously gifted to the SIFD by Frank Flanagan was financial backing for an SIFD weekend in his memory. This suggestion was well received in the general discussions at the AGM and the Committee would like it to go ahead. It is proposed that the weekend will include dance workshop sessions and social dancing, together with time for relaxation, and exploring the local area. It would be good if initial planning could start as soon as possible.

Can you help us with this? A volunteer (or perhaps a team of 2 or more) is needed to organise the weekend. No experience is necessary, as the Committee and others who have done this before will be available to offer guidance and advice as required. On the financial side there will be no risk or cost to the organiser(s) as the Society will provide a float to cover venue deposits and expenses, pending receipt of participants' fees. In the unfortunate event of an overall deficit the Society will bear it (from the Fund).

If you can help, or would like to ask any questions before deciding, please contact the Committee on mail@sifd.org or anyone on the Committee personally. Frank very much enjoyed the SIFD's weekends and it would be sad if we were unable to hold this one in his memory.

Looking further ahead we would like the long standing tradition of regular SIFD weekends to continue (backed financially by the Frank Flanagan Fund). But again, organisers are needed, and the Committee would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is or who thinks they might at some point be interested.

Judith Payling On behalf of the Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Feb.4th/5th INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE WEEKEND WITH HENNIE KONINGS, ISTD studios, Old Street 10 - 5 Sat & 10 - 4 Sun. £90 for the weekend. Bookings & more info from Janet Wilks 02072299387 janet@janetwilks.co.uk

S.I **Feb. 4th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 7:00 to 10:30. Oxford's winter party is full of good music, dances and food. All food and drink will be provided by the Oxford group. Tickets will be sold at the door: £7.00. Children under 14, £3.00. For more information email Sally Humphrey: sally.humphrey@onetel.net or Charlotte Haenlein: charlottehaenlein@tiscali.co.uk

Feb.11th BALKANPLUS - with MC Emily Nisbet

Mar.17th/18th NENAD BIĆANIĆ details: Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Rd. Aspull Nr Wigan WN2 1EF

Mar.25th WOODVALE INT. FOLK DANCE GROUP Annual Dance
* Please Note that this dance is from 2pm to 5pm * Adults £6 and children £3 inc refreshments (please bring your own drink). phone: 01732 883405 web site: www.woodvaleifdg.org.uk

S.I **Apr.14th HELP FOR HAITI 3 - PAM RADFORD**, a day of 'beginners dances' 11am - 4pm at Barnham Village Hall. Near Bognor Regis. Raffle and tabletop sale - proceeds for St. Saviour's Priory, Haiti mission. £12. shared lunch. Details: Janet Douglas 01243 265010 or www.interfolk.co.uk

S.I **Jul.28th/Aug.4th SIFD INT. FOLK DANCE SUMMER SCHOOL**, University of Wales, Swansea. Tel. 07905 603655 or 01462 457791; Email: sifdsummerschool50@gmail.com ; Website www.sifdsummerschool.org

Aug.11th HIFD 40th ANNIVERSARY DANCE at Otterbourne Village Hall (near Winchester).

S.I **Aug. 24-27 WILLINGDON IFDG MINI FESTIVAL** of International and English Folk Dance, Circle Dance and singing at Plumpton nr Lewes, East Sussex. Full board, plenty of single rooms. Approx £160. Volunteer dance leaders encouraged. Early booking advised. Booking form with further info: Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ

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.



Matlock U3A

Our International Folk Dancing Group belongs to the Matlock U3A. - The U3A means the University of the Third Age and is an organisation which enables the retired (or the partly retired or the over-fifties) to pursue common interests. We have lots of interesting groups in the U3A in Matlock, such as the Wine Appreciation Group, the Theatre Group, Walking Group, Art Appreciation Group, in fact, over 20 in all, and International Folk Dancing is one of them.

We started up about three years ago and meet every Friday morning. Janet is our coordinator and she gives us excellent tuition. We have learnt dances mostly from the Balkans - Greece, Romania, Bulgaria, Albania and also from Israel and Russia. It has opened up a whole new area of enjoyment for those of us who have never danced before and several of our members are now able to lead dances themselves.

We are a thriving group and have been able to have a visiting tutor from Holland, Corry Verheijen, to teach us more Balkan dancing. We have also had a Saturday workshop in nearby Baslow with Cathy Meunier, which was organised together with the Sheffield Horo group.

By joining the International Folk Dancing Group we have made new friends and many of us now attend other dancing workshops to get our "dancing fix". Several of us went on the residential Balkan Folk Dance course with Bianca de Jong in Llandudno before Easter. Perhaps you saw us there.

We are having another workshop in May. This time for Armenian and Greek dancing. Some of our members are even joining a dance-based holiday in Armenia in September. We probably wouldn't have even known where Armenia was before we started the dancing!

If you haven't heard of the U3A before, and are interested, do check what is going on in your area. We can recommend it. Because of it we've been introduced to the world of international folk dancing.



Romanian Folk Dance Course

at Braithwaite near Keswick - August Bank Holiday 2012

Cristian and Sonia both have a wealth of experience of Romanian folk dance and they are now sharing their love of it with folk dancers around the world including Canada, the USA and Europe. We are very fortunate to have this opportunity to see them in England. Not only are they excellent teachers, but really delightful people too. Here are some comments about them:

“Extraordinary people as dancers, performers and teachers. I guarantee you that you will love them and you will have a super workshop with them” (Ahmet Luleci). “Wonderful energy and personality. Exciting choice of dance and music” (Yves Moreau). See their website: www.soniacristian.net.

The weekend will commence on Saturday 25th August at 10:30 am and end on Monday 27th at midday. Live music in the evenings will be provided by Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver. Dance workshops will be on Saturday and Sunday (all day), and on Monday morning. There will be an evening meal and social dance with Cristian, Sonia, Mike and Clyde on both Saturday and Sunday evenings. We will bring lunch to share on Saturday and Sunday and you can bring your own drinks to have with your meals. All kinds of accommodation is available in the area around Braithwaite, Portinscale and Keswick ranging from luxurious hotels, country inns, B&B, hostels and campsites depending on your budget. A list of possible accommodation will be provided on request.

The cost of the weekend course is £95 and includes all dance workshops, evening meals on both Saturday and Sunday and social evenings. For full details and a booking form, please send s.a.e. to me at 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX. Alternatively you can get the information electronically by sending your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com

Cathy Meunier



At the end of another year I should like to say thank you very much to Janet for her hours of work in producing the excellent SIFD NEWS each month. As a former editor I know the commitment required to do this job.

As I no longer take an active part in the Society's activities, I enjoy keeping in touch via the NEWS and I am grateful to Janet for keeping this going so efficiently.

And of course I am including Dalila in this note of appreciation for all the work she does in ensuring that the NEWS gets to us in time.

Thank you both very much indeed. Happy New Year!

Lily Avery

Day of Dance in Bridport

21 January at Church House (St. Mary's) Hall, South Street, Bridport

10.30 to 12.00 Intermediate general international workshop with

Maggie O'Regan

13.30 to 17.00 Beginners and improvers workshops with Maggie O'Regan

18.30 to 19.30 Walk through some of the evening's dances

19.30 to 22.30 Dance to live music by Balamouk from North Devon
(weather permitting)

For further information and tickets, please contact Mecki Testroet 01308 423
442 or email meckil@yahoo.co.uk



SIFD is an unincorporated Charity

That means that the Trustees, your committee, have no protection if the Society should become insolvent (it's OK, that is not a likely possibility) and any assets are owned by the trustees in person, rather than by the Society. Now change is in the air.

The 2011 AGM agreed that we should consider applying for the new status of Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). This is a new kind of body introduced in the 2006 Charity Act (yes, 2006, and we don't have it yet!) A CIO combines the benefits of being a charity with the legal protection given a company (limited liability). At present, to achieve this requires a body to be both a charity, answerable to both the Charity Commission, which we are, and a company limited by guarantee, answerable to the Registrar of Companies (Companies House) which we are not.

Unfortunately the final regulations for the new status have not yet been agreed by government. They are promised for some time in 2012 but even when they are introduced it looks as though there will be a long wait in a queue before we can be considered. Priority is being given to new bodies before existing charities and it is quite possible that small charities like ours may not come very high up the queue when the schedule does open to existing bodies.

So, it's a matter of watch this space. As soon as the opportunity comes, the committee will keep members fully informed. We even have an article ready describing the new status and exploring the issues, but we do not plan to bother you with it until there is a real prospect of SIFD becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation.

Roger Sturge, for the Committee.

Bexhill International Folk Dance Group

In 1993 Lily Avery and I thought we would try to start an international folk dance group in Bexhill - a bit of a leap into the unknown. On 2nd September twentyfive people turned up to our surprise - not that we've ever achieved that number since but we're still here with several dancers from that day.

At first Lily and I did all the teaching but we were soon joined by other teachers, Rowena Martin in 1994, Jack Carter teaching English dances in 1995 and Debbie Collins in 1999. Unfortunately, in 2001 Lily made the decision she would no longer teach so we became an affiliated group instead of an associate member of the SIFD. Lily finally retired from dancing in 2005. Her presence and expertise were greatly missed.

In July 2009 Jack and Midge Carter decided that they were not able to make the journey from Seaford to be with us any more. From then on until Spring 2010 numbers started to fall... from 12 - 14 per session we only had 6 or 7 at times. Something had to be done. A publicity campaign was mounted in the autumn. Bernard Martin produced some eye-catching posters for us, adverts and news items appeared in the local press, our session time was changed so we finished 30 minutes earlier and we held two free open evenings resulting in 14 and 19 attendees. We were back in business. I wish I could say they all stayed but apart from one or two they didn't, through health and physical problems, dances too difficult or the local English dance group was preferred. However, former members Heather Burgess and Audrey Turner also returned at this time.

As a bonus, Debbie, who had been living in The Netherlands since 2005 and danced with an international group in Leiden, came back to Britain permanently in August. She specialises in teaching Balkan, especially Romanian and Israeli dances. Rowena specialises in Balkan, Armenian, Russian and Israeli. I keep up couple dances and some from more exotic places such as China, Japan, Siberia and the Pacific islands. We are lucky to have Beryl Hartley who had taught some of her own highly enjoyable English dance compositions on occasion to take over the English spots from Jack.

For a few months we have been pleased to welcome a New Zealander, Jane Soan, to our group. Strangely enough she was born in Hastings and now dances with the Hawkes Bay international dance group in Hastings, NZ! Some of our dances like Sulam Ya'acov were familiar but we tried to impress her with some weirder, or should I say more unusual offerings such as Khanty Mansi from Siberia and Kototaki Ondo from Japan. Rowena thought she might feel at home with the Maori Stick Dance though our efforts on reaching the floor and rising, yet alone retaining the batons, were hilarious and definitely not authentic!



As our members are all heavily committed to other groups, organisations, keep fit and charities we do not do demonstrations but meet twice monthly on the first and third Thursdays of the month just to enjoy social evenings of music and dance. When I say social, I mean social, as everyone chats so much it is sometimes difficult to announce the dances. We are a very friendly group! It's a great joy to have such loyal and enthusiastic supporters.

In July on our last meeting before the summer break we were joined by some former members (photo enclosed) including Jack and Midge Carter. We are delighted that they can get to some summer sessions. Jack will be dancing into his 90th year in 2012. Howzat! We just hope to emulate his example and "Keep Dancing".

Heather Edwards



Balkanplus

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 14th January 2012 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC for the evening will be Julie Korth. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

Firsts and Favourites

Janet Douglas remembers:

At the age of six, I was really enjoying the treat of skipping instead of the usual dull lessons, when we were told to stand still and face centre. At that moment I realised that the ribbons in our hands had made a fabulous pattern on the Maypole and I have loved it ever since. Of course we were dancing English dances but since then I have incorporated a few international Maypole dances into my repertoire.

As for actual International dances, I danced Irish and Scottish dances socially in my twenties but didn't really get bitten with the International Folk Dance Bug until battling with 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 (that's uno, dos, etc.) for Pasados in a flamenco class in Spain in the 80s. Back home in England when I discovered the SIFD I felt that I had found the one Society that exactly tied in with my notions of dance. Long may it continue.



And - if 'First and Favourites' is to continue please consider writing about your First and Favourites to Judith Payling or myself. Ed.



Ken Ward

I left London in November 1962, when Ken was in his prime. He led the Balkan Group and participated in Pug's (Dr. V. Cyriax) Swedish team.

That is how I remember him, full of energy, enthusiastic, teaching and dancing (and singing) and playing the evenings away.

I was sorry when I heard of his retirement (from activities) to Spain. Now he has passed away - I hope not to be forgotten.

I thank God for allowing us to have his love of Balkan dancing, music and song.

Ruth Coton (nèe Sharp)



Footnote from Diki to page 7 of Dec. Issue.

Abject apologies for unwitting inaccuracy re. Ken's death.

Diki Gleason

The Magic of Pirin

Dancing with local folklore groups, walking, birdwatching and exploring.
4 - 11 April (Tour code: DP)

Leader: Cathy Meunier

Price: £975. (Based on a group of 10 or more, booked by 31 January 2012.
A smaller group will incur a supplement).

This short tour during the Easter break will be based in Dobursko, a village south of Sofia in the Struma valley, near to the Rila and Pirin mountains. Although primarily intended for dancers, with opportunities to dance with several local folklore groups and tuition from Mitko Petrov, there will also be plenty of time for walking, birdwatching and getting to know the area. We plan to visit Rila Monastery, Bansko's old centre and Melnik, famous as Bulgaria's smallest town and home of one of its most popular wines.

Further information from Dr Annie Kay, BBFS Tours Organiser, Phone/Fax 020 7237 7616. annie.kay@btinternet.com



SIFD Music and Book Update

Two changes have recently been made to the SIFD Music and Books offered for sale.

1) Two small booklets have until now been the source of the music and dance notes accompanying **CD4**. They date back to the time when the contents of CD4 were offered as two EPs, and I was very aware that they were below SIFD's usual standard. But no longer need I be ashamed to send them out!

They have now been replaced by a single, smart A4-sized book, spiral bound so it always stays open, with the bonus of beautifully clear music notation and – in some cases – improved dance instructions.

I need to thank Simon Guest for all the work he has put into this book, with help from Judith Payling. At a mere £2.50, it is a huge improvement.

2) The only **video** the SIFD has produced for teaching purposes accompanies CD3 – “Dancing into Europe”. Although the “Europe” of those days is considerably smaller than now (would anyone like to help produce an updated version?) (please?) it has some useful dances, and the video has now been replaced by a **DVD**. The content is just the same – but much easier to use. The price is now only £5, to match the music CDs.

Details of all the SIFD CDs and books offered for sale can be found on the website (www.sifd.org), and go to the SIFD Shop) or contact me for a list.

Alison Scrimshaw 020 8395 1400

March SIFD Day Course

March 17 This month's course will see Katerina Christopoulos of the 'Ellenismos' Group (Nottingham) join Clyde Olliver and Mike Machin for an afternoon of Greek dance to the accompaniment of live music and song. More info next month!

Clyde Olliver



Manx Dancers



Geoff Weston sent this photo of Manx dancers to complement his article in the November News.

SIFD Sunday Dance/Workshops

7pm – 10pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1 7AY

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

January 8th MCs: the SIFD Committee
Dances chosen by the members of the committee,
so always a wide and interesting selection.

12th February MC: Anne Leach



Dear Janet,

The attached article* I wrote for the Staplers English Country Dance Group for their newsletter. John Walford will be pleased to learn that in Hitchin at least, there is an attempt to reintroduce some stepping into the dancing. It is good that our SIFD Newsletter has such informative and interesting articles about the early history of other organisations. EFDDS magazine also has a series of articles looking back at the history of EFDDS.

Jill Bransby



*A brief summary follows:

The workshop required dancing particular steps, rather than just 'plodding about', and gave a brief history of the 'Dancing English' who had once been renowned for their varied stepping.

They were asked to 'walk with a purpose', to dance the skip-change step, the Schottische step (one, two, three hop) which in most European dances comes in patterns of two Schottische steps and 4 step hops. To walk in triple time - long, medium, medium (not a waltz). Then the rant step followed (hop, hop, change - 'potato crisps'). Also siding, gypsying, casting and generally getting dizzy to a waltz step (long, short, short), and step hopping to a hornpipe.

*If you would like a complete copy of Jill's article on 'Dances with a Step' contact me. **Ed.**



The Fandango

English

From the Apted Book 1774

7 D G A7 D G A7

12 Bm Em A7 D D

G A7 D G D G A7 D



The Fandango

(As danced in Bognor Regis)

Three couple longways all proper, 8 bar phrases

Top couple turn with the right hand and cast to middle place.

Working couple in the middle turn with the left hand and cast to bottom.

Circle to the left and back to the right

Bottom couple lead up to the top, cast to the middle and turn single away.

Working couple in the middle look right, turn that corner with two hands,
turn each other to face left corner,

Working couple turn left corner, from wrong side turn each other once and a half.

Man up, lady down, working couple go between the ends for a whole figure of eight,

Working couple in the middle, man down, lady up, a hey for three with ends,
meet in the middle and lead to the bottom to finish turn of dance.

Repeat twice to place

Janet Douglas



NB Next month the music for **Jianul** will be published - so please share your thoughts about the dance. Ed.

WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

S.I **Saturday 14th** **BALKANPLUS** see page 9

S.I **Saturday 21st** **DAY OF DANCE IN BRIDPORT** see page 7



Chair: Helen Ezra 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB
tel: 0208 648 4118

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

Secretary: Jeanette Hull 39 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4HJ
07894 920104 *jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk*

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Hatfield. AL9 7AQ
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Other Committee Members: Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6
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Roger Sturge 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol, BS9
4DU 0117 962 1802 (2)
roger@rogersturge.me.uk

mail@SIFD.com - please use this address as the SIFD contact for non members and when a quick response matters - a committee member checks this mailbox every day, while personal emails may not be accessed when the addressee is working or away.

SIFD Honorary Members 2012

A scroll with a list of names. The scroll is unrolled and held by four wooden rollers, one at each corner. The paper is aged and has some creases and discoloration. The text is centered on the scroll.

Mrs L Avery
Miss D F Bates
Miss S Chapman
Mr R P Clarke
Mrs A Eistrat
Mr & Mrs K Fyffe
Mr & Mrs S G Guest
Mr & Mrs M Holdup
Mrs J Korth
Mrs. J.C. Payling
Mrs J M Richardson
Mrs D Sloan
Mrs C Steeley
Mr & Mrs D Wells
Mrs J D Woolbar