



SIFD NEWS

February 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.

Here is some feedback about the change to the News:

It's Great. Well done. Just right for putting in your bag or pocket. We (PIFD), are looking for some good ideas to refresh our advertising. Any ideas?

Sue Clark

Whatever is best and easiest for you is all that matters, as far as I am concerned. It looks fine. Personally I preferred the old style which I could read without searching for my specs and I also prefer the one staple so that you can flap the pages over easily to read them, but I am glad the size fits the envelope – I hated the lovely old ones being folded to save postage, which I am sure was extra work and a nuisance to boot.

The Newsletter in itself is so important to the society and each one of us, that any format is acceptable and I am always grateful to you in particular and Dalila for all your ongoing hardwork. I am full of gratitude and appreciation.

Diki Gleeson

I do like the new format. Even with slightly smaller print, I can easily read it. You seem to be able to get in as many articles as before and it saves paper! Well done. My best wishes for 2012 to you and all the officers and committee.

Ruth Coton

Apparently the new format - looks clearer when viewed on iPod & iPad as it gives a larger font.

Simon Guest approved of the change - but also pointed out that the list of Honorary members included some spouses that are not actually on the list.

There has been other positive feedback, so it looks as if we will continue in this format; and once I've ironed out a few wrinkles you may very well find that the deadline for all your wonderful, informative and interesting articles will be a little later. Watch this space.

We have the Selpar logo this month and the front and back covers are photos of the Barlow group (see page 12)

Ed.



Balkanplus

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 11th February 2012 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs for the evening will be Ron and Jean Wilks with Dalila Heath. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Mar.17th BALKANPLUS** with MC Meryl Abraham
- S.I **Mar.17th SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 13
- Mar.17th RON KAVANA** (County Cork singer of traditional songs)
8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. London NW1 2HR
tel: Sheila 020 7281 7700
- Mar.17th/18th NENAD BIĆANIĆ** details: Julie Korth, Holly Cottage, off Wigan Rd. Aspull Nr Wigan WN2 1EF
- S.I **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 **Mar.31st SCANDINAVIAN DAY COURSE** with General International Dance Course 10.30 to 4 p.m. £8 (£5 half-day) Teacher: Anne Leach. Venue: Grangewood Methodist Church, Wollaton, Notts. Hosts: Nutbrook International Folk dance Group. Info: 0115 9171831
- Apr.9th/13th 4 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING** with walking 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, Dovedale, Derbyshire, DE6 1NJ. New to HF? We can get you a £50 discount! For details ring HF on 0845 470 7558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- 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 **Apr.19th-22nd VASIL GERLIMOV** see page 10
- S.I **Apr.20th VASIL GERLIMOV AT BARNET**. The only London workshop by the renowned Bulgarian dance teacher. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts EN5 4BW. £5 01992 58271

- S.I **Apr.27th/ 30th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** - nr Alcester, Warwicks
- Friday evening to Monday afternoon. Swedish and other international dancing with Anne Leach, Balkan dancing with Brian Dowsett, French bourrée dancing with Julian Stanley. Other varied dancing, music, singing, walking, cycling and more. For further information see website at www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.
- S.I **May.4th/7th SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND** see page 11
- May.4th/7th EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL** see page 10
- May.5th KLEZMER KLUB** - songs and dance tunes. 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. London NW1 2HR tel:020 7281 7700
- 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
- S.I **Aug.11th HURSLEY INT. FOLK DANCERS 40th ANNIVERSARY**
Dance at Otterbourne Village Hall (near Winchester)
- S.I **Aug.24th/27th 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
- Aug.25th/Sep.1st 7 NIGHT INTERN'L FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon Dancing in the morning and evening. Afternoons free - at HF Holidays, St. Ives, Cornwall, TR26 2DB. New to HF? We can get you a £50 discount! For details ring HF on 0845 470 7558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Aug. 25th/27th ROMANIAN FOLK DANCE COURSE** at Braithwaite near Keswick with Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion. £95. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email : cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- S.I **Sep.22nd/23rd BALKANPLUS - ILIANA BOZHANOVA** see page 13



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.

Dancing with Dot at Dunford.....

A motley longways set of SIFD members and partners gathered for the annual pre-Christmas weekend at Dunford house. This historic and interesting house is near Midhurst and was the home of Richard Cobden. He was an MP in the 19th century, led the anti-Corn Law movement and was a 'free-trader'. Rooms in the house are named after family members and much can be seen of memorabilia, pictures and books from Cobden's time. The house is now run by the YMCA and the helpful and courteous staff.

Nearby is Midhurst which is a largely unspoilt small town with interesting old market town buildings. There is the Teapot cafe where you must mind your head on the wooden beams, a coaching inn and the Spread Eagle dating back to 1430. You can imagine more recent Dickensian times as you sip coffee or stronger tipple beside the inglenook fire.

The annual SIFD weekends coincide with the interesting monthly market in Midhurst. SIFD members chassis round the halls and stalls with every nick knock for sale from pottery to postcards and tools to togas.

Obviously the main activity included dance sessions which took place several times from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon led by Janet, Helen, Michael, Philip and Brenda. One session being devoted to English dances. If that were not enough all those fit and willing walked through the hills (and mud) around Midhurst. Some hiked along the farm tracks around Dunford.

In between dancing, walking and spending money there was plenty of time to talk, sip tea or coffee and dunk biscuits in the lounge near the large Christmas tree and log fire. Tales were told by Julie from Wales, Oscar and Peggy from the Midlands, Surrey and London folk. Some sang carols and all enjoyed the wonderful meals provided by the chef and staff. A couple of pounds, sorry kilogram, were added to waistlines which required a work out of several grapevines and change weight steps.

Dot Bradbury must carry the responsibility for all this because that is who organised the weekend.

If you haven't been to this highly enjoyable weekend, you must pencil into your diary now 14-16 December 2012 (provisional date).

Margaret and John, Ealing



Nordansko – Norwich International Folk Dance group

In spring 1989 Mary Marshall arrived in Norwich from the US with husband Steve Gould who was to spend a year at one of the science research centres in Norwich. Mary, a lawyer by training, could have little idea that when she put up a notice in the central library about an international folk dance session, a thriving group with a huge repertoire of dances would still be going 22 years later. Mary, who said her dance guru was Yves Moreau, had had years of international folk dance instruction experience in the US and knew many Balkan countries very well. Her notice in the library had a good response and some of us then in an English country dance group came to try out these very different dances with new rhythms. We were hooked and in May this year, after 22 years, we were able to welcome Mary and Steve to a celebration of the group she had begun.

Martin Shepherd and myself are probably the only two current people from the earliest days but it wasn't long before we were joined by Claire and Bear, Claire and musician John so a core of dancers soon emerged. Very soon after starting, Mary was invited by the Norwich synagogue to demonstrate some Israeli dances so we were thoroughly rehearsed to entertain the congregation. When Mary and Steve left Norwich, we did not have to worry for long about how to continue, as Claire and Bear, well known to most of SIFD's readers, took on buying some equipment and expanding the repertoire.

Nordansko has always been a strong group, much enriched by our key dance leaders' participation in courses away, but also by the steady flow of experienced dancers and teachers, either invited for the day, or whose jobs brought them to Norwich for a time. We are a social gathering, not a class, so we can easily absorb new people and new dances. We are also one of about seven groups in Suffolk and Norfolk, most inviting SIFD or other dance teachers from time to time, so we can go to each other's sessions. In fact, writing this short history of the group makes me realise how much we owe our repertoire to these three main ways of expanding our repertoire and keeping a lively dance scene.

Though most of us can lead a dance or two, we have three regular dance leaders. For Claire and Bear, international folk dance and song seems to be a way of life. They have been on dance camps in the US, dance courses around the Balkans and in Turkey, and dance weekends in this country, so there is a steady flow of new dances to challenge us.

Jane Jarvis had danced in Edinburgh before moving to Norfolk and forming a group in Fakenham. She had travelled to courses in Turkey and throughout >

the Balkans and has taught us many lovely dances from those countries. Before she moved house, we spent some atmospheric evenings dancing around the paintings and sculptures in Jane's barn studio or in her garden. Claire Domoney has been on every course Cathy Meunier has organised except one and is credited by us as having an amazing memory for dances! As a result, nearly all the dances Cathy and her invited teachers have taught are in our repertoire.



Photo: Anniversary party with Mary and Steve (in front), May 2011. Bear (left), myself (4th from l), Claire Domoney (7th from left), Claire Shearman (8th from l), Hilary Brown (10th from l), Jane Jarvis (7th from r above Steve), Birgitte Campbell-Johnston (right), Martin Shepherd (middle top!).

Another source of many of our dances was James Webb, who, with Jackie, came to work in Lowestoft for a few years and joined us during that time. Ina and the late John Webb moved to Norwich from the Midlands and John taught us Arcanul Batrinesc and Hora Fetelor. For some years, Helen and the late Serge Leuenberger spent half their time near Bern and half near Newmarket, driving some 40 miles up to Norwich every Tuesday. Helen taught dances in two groups in Bern and knew many fairly easy but very lyrical dances.

Nicole van Hekezen, whose work brought her from Netherlands to Norwich

on and off, taught us a few unusual dances including Cigansko Orient. Hilary Brown, who has a fortnightly circle dance session in Norwich, has brought us some dances as well as many of her group members.

Some of us are also in the Greek dance group which has been going over 22 years so there is a very healthy input of new dances, both easy and challenging.

In Norfolk and Suffolk, we have close links with Birgitte Campbell-Johnston who has a group in Bungay and her own band, Zaramo. Dawn Wakefield has a group in mid Norfolk and has invited both SIFD and visiting teachers like Iliana Bozhanova and Mitko Petrov. Other groups we see at times are Sally Fletcher's in Ipswich and Hele and Pen in Walberswick. Our own repertoire has also been expanded by the various dance teachers who have been to Norwich: including Delyan Demirev, Anne Leach, Cathy Meunier and Marina Wolstenholme.

For music, we mostly use CDs, but Claire and Bear, who have perhaps taken to the international folk dance scene more than the rest of us, expanded long since into singing and playing. We love to have our regular musician, John Firmin, on his much-used accordion from which he nevertheless produces a range of styles in keeping with the 'voices' of the dances. His version of La Ronde à Sidonie contains elements of the Marseillaise, a train whistling and a police car siren. I defy anyone not to collapse with laughter at the end of that! John is always joined with Bear's distinctive voice and percussion and sometimes by Birgitte on the violin. He also plays with Birgitte's band, Zaramo, and in a very well-known and lively ceilidh band, Pendragon.

Nordansko has never really been a display group, though we were invited to dance on three occasions at a folk music and dance day at Gressenhall Museum of Rural Life, and a European evening at the University of East Anglia. We meet in St Alban's church hall on Tuesdays at 8.15 (if anyone is thinking of joining us) though occasionally we can use the John Innes Centre recreation hall which has the bonus of a heated swimming pool outside the doors!

In May Mary could hardly believe how we had progressed from the time she left us in 1990. We are grateful to her for sowing the seeds, to Claire and Bear who have kept up the momentum, brought the equipment, and ensured the hall hire for so long, and of course to the many people who have taught and danced with us, passed through or stayed. It would be wonderful to think the group was still going in another 22 years' time!

Christine Wilson

Vasil Gerlimov

Vasil is a renowned Bulgarian teacher, choreographer and ensemble leader. He graduated from the Institute for Music and Choreography in Sofia and the Academy for Music and Dance Arts in Plovdiv. He has worked as a choreographer in Stara Zagora and in Ensemble “Strandja” in Bourgas. He was choreographer and director of Ensemble “Zagore” in Stara Zagora. In 2000 he created the dance group “Dance of the Wind” which has a contemporary feel for Bulgarian musical folklore. He and his groups have performed in Bulgaria and other parts of Europe and Israel and have received many awards.

One of the dancers with Oxford Balkansko Oro, Nevena Vlaykova, comes from Start Zagora. Her mother was taught by Vasil “even before she was born”, as Nevena said. The Oxford group wanted to invite Vasil to come to the UK before Nevena finishes her degree at Oxford and returns to Bulgaria. We feel very fortunate to have him coming to Oxford the 19th, 21st and 22nd of April and to the Barnet Group on the 20th of April.

Sally Humphrey



Eastbourne Festival *

- Eastbourne is a major Folk Dance and Music Festival and this year
- 1 promises to be an exciting programme. Your weekend ticket enables you to cross between the ‘English’ and International Workshops and Dances, as you will.
 - 2 More information at: www.eiff.org.uk
 - 3 Tickets cost £72, Camping and Caravan pitches at £25 a unit.
 - 4 Applications for Tickets: Festival Office, 24 Inwood Road, Wembdon, Bridgewater Ta6 7PP phone 01278 424332

Also we will have:-

As much live music as possible from Dutch DIP, Clyde and Mike. Ron and Jean Wicks will take an official DVD of the Workshops. Festival T.shirts on sale again in the Gym; price £7

Hope to see you there

Mary, Julie and the Barlow Committee

*The timetable will be in the March issue. Ed.

An Inspiring Teacher

After all the hullabaloo of Christmas and New Year, I'm always more than ready to get back to dancing, and one of the things that always lifts my spirits is the prospect of Hennie Konings' intensive Russian course (usually at the end of January, but this year first week in February). "Intensive" in this context doesn't mean high-powered or fiendishly difficult, but rather that the dances will be taught with a depth of detail that we very rarely get in the SIFD, when many of our teachers come from abroad, and are teaching a group of people they don't know very well, and with a limited amount of time at their disposal.

Hennie brings a wealth of experience and huge amount of research with him, and creates a wonderful atmosphere. Those who've experienced his teaching at Eastbourne or Swansea have had a glimpse of this, but this is intensified when he teaches a small group. We've been meeting twice yearly now for some seven or eight years, and, while some of the personnel have changed, have developed a real bond. It's more expensive than the usual SIFD courses (because the numbers are purposely kept low) but one for which I always save my pennies! If you like Hennie's dances - and I know that many of you do - why not come along and dance with us.

Maggie O'Regan



Ken Ward was very kind to me when at the Swansea Summer School many moons ago. I was a fledging Folk Dance teacher and he gave me a 'reel to reel' tape together with the written notes of 'The Serbian Suite' so that I could take them back to our Newport Group. It became a firm favourite and I have since introduced it to PIFD who also enjoy the Suite.

Sue Clark



SIFD Halsway Manor Weekend

Friday 4th - Monday 7th May..... with an optional extra night.

A long Bank holiday weekend of dancing and walking in the Quantocks.
Dancing led by Janet Woolbar, with walks organised by Robin Morris.

Contact : Gordon Adie 4, Upper Lemon Villas, Truro, TR1 2PD
email: grdnadie@aol.com phone 07723802894

Kalinka Concert 2011

Barlow International Dance group has been taking part in the Kalinka Concert which is held annually in December for the last 15 years. It is a benefit concert which takes place at the Royal Northern College in Manchester to raise money for orphans in St Petersburg.

Julie Korth has been arranging our performances there for 14 years. This year I'm pleased to say that Naomi Ryder took on the choosing, teaching and directing us. Naomi is 20 and has been dancing with us since she was a child. There were 26 dancers – the youngest 4 and the oldest 79. She taught us Seyu-rassjevayu, Korobushka, and Na Yegoria. These dances worked well together with contrasting tempo and patterns which made them entertaining to watch.

Julie obviously supported Naomi and had her hands full dressing 16 children. The children do grow each year so many of the costumes had to be altered. The audience enjoyed the colourful lively performance and clapped away with the dances.

Mary O'Mahoney



Edna Foster 1928-2011

Edna served the Society as Secretary during the Chairmanship of Simon Guest from 1975 to 1980.

She sadly passed away after losing her battle with cancer on 20th December 2011.

She will be remembered by many long-established SIFD members for her enthusiasm for Dance and the energy she put into her work for the Society.

In the early days she attended Joan's class in New Barnet, and organised or joined holidays abroad with Simon and Joan and other SIFD members.

She was also a regular participant at the annual international dance weeks run by Steve and Joy at various HF Holidays' houses.

Dancing was a great part of Edna's earlier life; we were all introduced to English Folk Dancing at our local Church Youth Club in the early 1950s, then we discovered international dancing during visits to Cecil Sharp House. Edna will be sadly missed.

Eileen, Jean and Ian

Balkanplus Workshops with Iliana Bozhanova & Todor Yankov

Our apologies for upstaging the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games, but the big event in London this year must be the return of the ever popular Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov (accordion) with a brand new programme of dances from Bulgaria. Since their first visit in 2009 they have continued to travel the world and have appeared regularly on Bulgarian television.

We are offering the customary two daytime workshops and Saturday evening party. However, the Saturday venue will be in the Presidential Suite at the London Irish Centre in Camden Square – not far from Camden Town tube station and with more than adequate roadside parking. The Sunday workshop will be at the familiar Cecil Sharp House.

The details and deals are as follows.

Saturday 22nd September Workshop 10.30am to 4.30pm

Party 7pm to 10.30pm (incl. live music) - the London Irish Centre

Sunday 23rd September Workshop 10.30am to 4.30pm - Cecil Sharp House

Prices (early booking price, before the end of June, in brackets)

Sat w/shop £30 (£25) Sun w/shop £25 (£20) Party £10. Weekend £60 (£50)

Discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Prices on application.

Please send cheque payable to Balkanplus and SAE to Ms Maureen Felton 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG.

Further information 01473 272256 (Maureen) or 01992 582717 (Brian)

Website www.balkanplus.org.uk

Iliana and Todor will be visiting other dance groups and giving folklore presentations during their stay. Details will follow soon. In the meantime, be sure to book your place at the Balkanplus weekend.

Brian Dowsett



March SIFD Day Course

For the day course on 17th March Katerina Christopoulos of the 'Ellenismos' Group (Nottingham) will join Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver for an afternoon of dances from the sunny Greek Islands and Cappadocia, accompanied by live music and song. It would be helpful if participants could each bring with them two hankies.

2.00 - 6.00pm Cecil Sharp House

Clyde Olliver

Jianul Romanian

not too fast x4

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Jianul

I remembered I loved this music, so I fished out the video of Silviu at Ipswich in 1998 when he taught Jianul (from Muntenia), and, I still love it!

In fact I am determined to resurrect it this month; and try again to encourage people to be vocal as they dance it, not that there was much success last time I tried - I suppose it's a British thing to be strong and silent. In fact shortly after that course I danced with someone teaching it 'silently', and when I asked "why?" he replied that the music was too beautiful to be spoiled by shouting.



Next month the intriguingly named **Reit im Winkl Plattler** will be published - and if you can explain the title - please share your knowledge. **Ed.**



Kyriakos Moisidis: 9 -12 November



This residential long weekend of dances mainly from the north of Greece (Macedonia, Thrace, Pontos and Cappadokia) is at Newfield Hall, Malhamdale. There will also be an opportunity to learn Greek and Balkan songs at Mike and Clyde's workshops. To book, 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

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)

12th February MC: Anne Leach

Anne never fails to come up with lovely dances - many not often met at the Sunday dances, so you can enjoy both old and new.

March 11th Jill Bransby



SIFD Committee

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

Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane,
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judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk

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07894 920104 *jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk*

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Roger Sturge 10 Carmarthen Road, Bristol, BS9 4DU
0117 962 1802 *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.

WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

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. food & drink provided. £7.00. Children under 14, £3.00. For more information email Sally Humphrey: sally.humphrey@onetel.net or Charlotte Haenlein: charlottehaenlein@tiscali.co.uk

S.I **Feb.11th BALKANPLUS** see page 3

S.I **Feb.12thSIFD SUNDAY DANCE/WORKSHOPS** see page 15

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

