



Hyvaa Joolua

**Feliz Navidadalig
Zalig Kerstfeest**

**Shinnen Omadeto
Glaedlig Jul**

SIFD News December 2012

**Yeni Yilinizi Kutlar
Sretam Božič
Joyeux Noel**

**Veselekh Vyat
Zoriontsu Eguberri
Boldog Karacsonyi**



Mele Kalikimaka

**Glad Jul
Nadolic Llawn
Vesele Božične**

Sarbatori Fericite

Kala Khristougena

Tchestito Rojdestvo Hristovo

**Fröliche Weinachten
Veselé Vianoce**

Wesolych Swiät Božego Narodzenia

Shenoraavor Nor Dari

Buon Natale



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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A big thank you to all members who have contributed letters, articles and pictures for the SIFD News this year; and most especially to Dalila for sending out postal and email copies all year.

Happy Christmas

The cover picture shows a woman and reindeer from Lapland (he hasn't got a red nose but she has). The centre pages are of Polish dancers at a Christmas celebration and the back cover shows Breton dancers at a Christmas Market.

Ed.



A Note of Thanks

At the end of another year I should like once again to thank Janet for doing such an excellent job in producing the SIFD News so efficiently and Dalila for making sure it gets to us on time. It is interesting, well set out and something to look forward to each month. Thank you both for all your hard work. Merry Christmas!

Lily Avery



Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 8th December 2012 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC for the evening will be Frances with live music from Dunav. Admission £7.



This month's dances will include some old, some new, some fun, some plus, some just ridiculous, caked by some recordings and some live music by the inimitable "Dunav". Add some bling to reflect the festive season if you so desire.

Frances Horrocks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **Jan.12th BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Meryl Abraham

S.I **Jan.13th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 20

Jan.26th/27th INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE with Hennie Konings at ISTD2, 346 Old Street, London EC1V 9NQ Sat. 10.30 - 5.15pm. Sun.10.15– 5.00. Cost £110. All other enquiries and bookings to: Janet Wilks 020 7229 9387 janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk

S.I **Feb.7th/12th RIVIERADANCE!** Yves Moreau (Balkan and Bulgarian), France Bourque-Moreau (International), Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian), singing, music-making, live music with Mike and Clyde. Livermead Hotel Torquay. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. For details and 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 **Mar.2nd SIFD W.MIDS BRANCH BALKAN DAY COURSE** with Cathy Meunier, Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver at Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Rd, Solihull B91 1LG. Workshops for dancers, musicians and singers. Further details nearer the time. Maggie Kaye: margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

S.I **Mar.16th/17th BIANCA DE JONG** runs a Balkan Workshop, details from Julie Korth: Holly Cottage, off Wigan Rd, Aspull, nr. Wigan WN2 1EF or Mary: maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk

S.I **Mar.23rd A DAY OF UNUSUAL DANCES.** Dances from South Sea Islands, South America, Asia and others with Silvia McIntyre. 10.30 - 4.30 at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, Eastbourne. Cost: £10. Details: Silvia on 01323 502962 or silviamcintyre@hotmail.com

Mar.23rd BALKAN DAY OF DANCE St Mary's (Church House) Hall, South Street, Bridport. DT6 3NW. Cathy Meunier will be teaching Balkan dances, Clyde Olliver and Mike Machin providing live music. Ring Mecki on 01308 423 442 or mecki1@yahoo.co.uk

S.I **Apr.20th HELP FOR HAITI 4** - an afternoon of followable dances from around the world. Raffle and tabletop 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 or www.interfolk.co.uk

S.I **April 26th/29th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Friday evening to Monday afternoon) 30th Anniversary (near Alcester, Warwickshire). International Dancing with our special guest Karin Bellaart from the Netherlands. Other varied dancing, music, handbells, singing, walking and cycling. For further information see website at www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.



*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.*



Balkanplus Romanian Dance Workshops in September 2013

I am pleased to announce the first visit to the UK by the top rated teacher Marius Ursu.

He has been highly recommended by Nick Green who regularly dances with his group in Romania. Marius will be in England exclusively for the two day Balkanplus workshops on 28th and 29th September 2013. Please note the dates in your new diaries. Full details will be announced in the next month or so but be assured this will be a major event in the 2013 dance calendar.

Brian Dowsett



In memory of Peter Oakley

Lily Avery has sent Kelsey Blundell's article from the February 1975 issue; it is reprinted below.

An Essex Wedding

The day was fine and warm and the sun did shine, although it might have obliged perhaps by shining just a little brighter to add that final touch to a perfect day. It was one of the nicest weddings I have been to for a long time and I hope the bride and groom enjoyed their day as much as they seemed to.

So-called Society Weddings are reported in "The Tatler" or "Country Life", so it seems only right that our friends' traditional folk wedding should be shared with readers of our News. The occasion was the wedding of Eleanor (nee McMeiken) and Peter Oakley at South Ockendon Church. A pretty church beside the village green and across the way from the village pub, into which, on arrival, I spied two of the Thaxted Morris men disappearing. A typical folk wedding....

Gradually the guests began to arrive and soon the whole Morris side were assembled, with musicians and a tall thin elderly gentleman wearing tail coat and top hat and a long solemn face, and they began to dance on the village green. Peter arrived, looking very smart in an oatmeal coloured suit and large white tie(?), removed his jacket and joined in the dancing until it was time to go into church.

All the guests were given for a 'buttonhole', a small corn dolly love knot, and the organist played a medley of old English dances and Morris tunes. We were seated only just in time for the arrival of the bride, looking lovely in a white dress with high neck and balloon sleeves and a train from the waist, which she carried in one hand as she came up the aisle and while dancing throughout the rest of the day. She was accompanied by four pretty maids, the eldest in a long blue dress with full sleeves and the little ones with blue patchwork aprons over white dresses with puffed sleeves, each wearing the prettiest straw hats decorated with flowers, and carrying baskets of flowers. (Sorry, Eleanor, at the inadequacy of my descriptions, as I know you worked very hard - I'll not make a fashion editor). The church was full and the singing of the hymns strong and enthusiastic as were the vows made by the bridal couple, there being no doubt that Peter most definitely would.

After the ceremony and the signing of the register, the Thaxted Morris men formed a guard of honour and photographs were taken and dances were danced on the village green, with Peter and Eleanor leading such dances as “Haste to the Wedding” and “Getting Upstairs”. Eleanor was given a corn dolly horseshoe and Peter told me that he carried ears of wheat in his pocket. There must have been many more little details which I missed, and I would not attempt to interpret them as I’m sure to get my facts wrong.

At the dance in the evening there was more folk dancing, plus a few family favourites such as the Hokey Kokey, popular songs led by Ian Willson, and a solo of Knees Up Mother Brown by one of the couple’s relations in a slinky black dress, accompanied by the Morris musicians. The Morris men capered, John Savill sang, and Fiona Howarth and a few friends from the Israeli group danced, ending their demonstration with ‘Sher’, a wedding dance led by Eleanor and Peter with all the company joining in at the end to add their good wishes to the bridal pair. It was refreshing to see a bride and groom enjoying their own wedding (as well as working very hard to see that everyone else did too), with Eleanor, still in her gown, gracefully leading all the dances, many of them chosen as appropriate to the occasion, and particularly those performed on the village green in such a relaxed atmosphere made it, I thought, just as a wedding should be.



Summer School DVDs

Frances Horrocks's letter, expressing her disappointment over various aspects of the DVDs from this year's Summer School, demands a response. She acknowledges "the amount of hard work that goes into organising the Summer School", but pointedly ignores the amount of hard work done by the video team. There is a very simple response to that: find a new team to do the job next time. In the hope that a new team can be found who are willing to risk being castigated for any failings, how can they minimise the risk?

Principally they will need to negotiate with the teachers to establish a schedule ensuring the availability of at least two cameras and operators for every session. That will probably mean starting the filming on the Wednesday or perhaps even earlier.

Those of us who had the long and complicated job of editing the raw video this time bitterly regretted the poor quality of some of it, and we spent a lot of time trying to effect some improvement - with some success - the final result was still bad but not as bad as the original raw video. But the end result is still "unacceptable" for Frances, so I presume she will be returning the affected DVD and requesting a refund of some of her money.

Anyway my explanation of the poor quality, as enclosed with the DVDs, was evidently insufficient, so here is some further explanation Frances asks whether it is difficult to check the exposure. I could say that normally there is no need, because the cameras can and normally do control exposure automatically; but that is not an adequate answer in this case, when one camera got it wrong. More to the point, the only way to check whether a test shot is satisfactory (in exposure and in any other respects) is to view it. Where do you do that? On the built in screen. In this instance the display on the screen looked washed out all the time, when filming and when reviewing, but the person using that camera (the Society's old one, which is 12 years old) presumed that it was the screen that was at fault. There was no way to tell otherwise until someone viewed the results on a computer screen, by which time it was too late. I eventually discovered the cause of the problem, but only several days after I got home. The camera had been inadvertently set for backlighting, but that is not apparent until one specifically checks.

Frances also complains of the lack of shots from inside the circle. Those are sometimes simply not practical, for one reason or another, but they certainly could be done sometimes. However you then see the teacher and the other dancers only from the front. Most teachers that I know make a point of moving around, while teaching a dance, to ensure that everyone has a chance to see them from behind, because that makes their movements easier to copy. Another time, presuming the availability of two cameras, it might be best for one to be inside the circle and one outside. Then if both shots are successful they can both be included in the final production to please everyone, and if one goes wrong there will still be something.

Frances also asks the explanation for “a special view of a green chair with scraps of paper on it”. That would have been included in the raw video to identify the dance about to be demonstrated, in case the teacher forgot to announce the name to the camera, or did so before the camera was running, or the announcement was hard to hear. I do not know why such a shot appears in the final production: perhaps to avoid a gap in the sound, or perhaps just a simple mistake. To err is human. Frances was disappointed that the small slip of paper contained only our apology, not a list of the dances on each disc. The DVDs do of course include menus, but we could have produced a paper list, at the expense of a little further delay before the DVDs were ready to be sent out. Another possibility next time, which might actually shorten the work and so allow the DVDs to be sent out sooner, would be to provide only a paper list, with no menu for going directly to each dance, forcing one to scroll through as one has to with VHS video. What would people prefer?

Finally, Frances expresses her concern “about the image of the Society that this video represents”. Although the Committee has recently decided to make Summer School videos available to members who have not attended (subject to some conditions), they are primarily intended as reminders of the dances for those who have attended. A video intended for promoting the Society would have a lot more time spent on the original shooting, possibly with several takes of each dance.

Richard Mellish





Notes from the November 2012 Committee Meeting

This being the first meeting of the newly elected Committee, the committee members appointed the officers for the year – Helen Ezra as Chairman, Jeanette Hull as Secretary and Judith Payling as Treasurer. Further routine business following on from the Committee changes followed – changes of cheque signatories and to the Frank Flanagan Fund Bursary Panel.

Financial, Membership and Publicity reports were presented and matters arising from the reports were discussed.

It was confirmed that the 2013 AGM will be on September 8th.

The Committee considered suggestions that had been made for the 2013 Afternoon Workshops/Daycourses, and a list of the favoured ideas will be passed to the organiser so that plans can be made for the 2013 season.

It was agreed that following a request for assistance (for the International Dance events) from the Eastbourne Festival the SIFD will make a one-off donation to the Festival.

With reference to music and video recordings matters arising regarding the 2012 Summer School DVD were discussed, together with possibilities for the conversion of old Daycourse videos to DVD. An update on the progress on production of P10 was given – it is at present hoped that it may be available by the end of the year.

Judith Payling



Tours to Republic of Moldova

12-19 May Republic of Moldova - Chisinau (Kishinev)

21-28 September Republic of Moldova - Chisinau (Kishinev)

For further information: Silviu Ciuciumis: +31-10-4218622,
stichting.doina@hetnet.nl www.StichtingDoina.nl

Traditional Romanian Dance Course

20 – 30 July 2013 at Cluj-Napoca, Romania

Price : €80 <http://www.dansromanesc.ro/>

The price includes:

- Transfer from Cluj-Napoca International Airport to the hotel and return. - Board and lodging in a 4**** hotel (breakfast, lunch and dinner) double bedroom with bath/shower and toilet. Supplement for a single room: €190 - Dance - lessons with Camelia and Ion Motoc - master choreographers, accompanied by live music. - Excursions by coach to villages to meet and join in with dancers there, visiting museums and other tourist attractions in Cluj-Napoca and around. - Watching performances by the DOINA Children's Folk Team at The Kids Palace Cluj-Napoca (meeting and dancing with them) - Seeing performances by the TRADITII Students Folk Ensemble from the University of Agricultural Sciences and Veterinary Medicine Cluj-Napoca (meeting and dancing with them) - Gala Dinner on the last evening, at a traditional Romanian restaurant in Cluj-Napoca - Accompaniment by Camelia and Ion and an English speaking guide.

The price does NOT include - Flight to and from Cluj-Napoca International Airport.



Wilf's Music for January

We have a good response this month for Rheinlander - here's hoping that next month will be as good.

It will be **Nickelsdorfer Schottische** from Austria - I await your response. (By the **15th December** for the January News).

Ed.



Notes from the 2012 AGM

30 members attended the meeting in Wollaton on 22nd September, hosted by Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group.

The Chairman Helen Ezra summarised her Report (previously published in the SIFD News). Discussion on topics she mentioned followed, in particular the Summer School and the SIFD Shop. Helen appealed for a volunteer to help run the shop.

The Treasurer Judith Payling summarised her Report for the year ended 31st December 2011, (previously published), explaining in particular the main reasons for the deficit shown in the accounts for the year. It was advised that if deficits continue the Committee will review activities and spending and propose appropriate action. Suggestions for increasing revenues and decreasing costs were invited. Discussion from the floor followed.

The Motion to change membership subscriptions for 2013/14 was explained, including the proposed introduction of a tier of lower rates for members choosing to receive the News electronically. Discussions followed and the Motion was carried.

The Meeting accepted the Independent Examiner's Report and considered the Accounts for 2011. Questions about the Accounts were answered by the Treasurer. The point was made from the floor that the membership would like to be reminded from time to time about the monies held in the various Funds shown on the Society's Balance Sheet, and how they can be used. The Treasurer undertook to keep members informed through items in the SIFD News.

The Independent Examiner was re-appointed, Membership Reports were presented, and the Meeting approved the proposal presented via the Agenda to initiate a change the terms of office of Committee Members. Details of the necessary amendments to the Constitution will be presented to a later AGM for approval.

The new Committee was announced: Helen Ezra, Jeanette Hull, Judith Payling, Richard Mellish, Caspar Cronk, Dalila Heath, Mary O'Mahony, Naomi Ryder, Holly Payling and John Stewart. As part of Any Other Business Peter and Jill Bransby presented Reports on the 2012 Summer School.

Peter and Jill announced that they wish to step down from the Summer School organising team and would like to find volunteers to shadow them for 2014 and take over for subsequent Summer Schools. Discussion on related matters followed.

Finally there was discussion about how a dancer could become a recognised SIFD teacher, how the SIFD could assist potential teachers, and finding new members.

Judith Payling



Dance Tour to Armenia

30th August - 10th September 2013 Price: €1545
(incl. flight from several European cities)

* Lodging: Yerevan State University in the centre of Yerevan. Rooms with 2 single beds, shower/bath and toilet. Single room supp: €150.

* Includes: flight, transfers, breakfast, 2x lunch, 7x dinner incl. tea, coffee, guided excursions, dance classes, entrance fees, performances.

* Excludes: drinks, remaining lunches, visa at Yerevan airport €6

Teachers: Paylak Sarkisian & Liudvig Poghosian

Info: Tineke Van Geel Web site: www.tinekevangeel.nl

Mail: info@tinekevangeel.nl Telephone: +31-521-380382



Rheinlander

Once again Laine Ruus has come up with an explanation for Rheinlander. In my experience our Danish musician always played it as the first dance of the session. Laine says :

It's hard to tell, but it is most likely Danish, Norwegian or Swedish, or possibly even Færøese.

In Danish, it is most commonly spelled 'rheinländer', but the 'æ' character is missing in English, and therefore when anglicised, often becomes 'rheinlander'.

continued overleaf >

The following variant spellings also occur in Danish: 'rheinlender', 'reinländer', 'reinlender', and even 'rejländer'.

More commonly, in Norwegian, it is spelled 'reinlender', but 'rheinlender' also occurs.

In Swedish, 'reinländer' or 'ringlender, but more commonly 'schottis'.

In Iceland, 'skottis' and in Finland 'schottis' or 'sottissi' or 'jenkka'.

So most likely not from either of those countries.

Of course, there are also subtle differences between a 'reinländer' and a 'schottis', and between a 'sottissi' and a 'jenkka', as well as between a 'reinländer' and a 'rheinländer' but those subtleties lie more in tempo, and playing styles, both of which influence how they are danced, and probably can't be deduced from a music score.

* **Norwegian**

Any number of couples moving LOD (CCW), inside hands joined.

Reinlendar two-step: This step has a springy, light character, with a "sweeping" feeling on the two-step figure and only a small lift on 4.

Reinlendar turn: This step is used in closed position during the couple turn. Opposite footwork for M and W, M beginning on L, W on R foot. The step is a step-lift on each count while the other foot touches the floor slightly. The couple turns CW twice around in 4 step-lifts.

There are simple, commonly used variations, danced in no set sequence, the changes and style of dance are determined by the whim of the man in his response to the music.

Next to the Waltz, the Reinlendar is probably the most popular gammaldans (old-time dance) in Norway. Danced throughout the country, with a different flavour and style from one region to another.

* **Rheinländer polka/Fynbo: Denmark**

Note: Characteristic for the Danish rheinländer polka, also called simply 'rheinländer' or 'polka' or 'fynbo' is progression, during the promenade portion, in the LOD for two bars, followed by progression in the RLOD for two bars. The couple turn always moves in the LOD. Within that basic structure, there are many possible variations.

I hope all this helps

Dorothy Sloan from Laine Ruus Toronto

* Dorothy has sent comprehensive dance notes - contact me if you want them. **Ed.**

Janet, you asked for information about December's choice of Wilf music. You wrote Rheinlander, but if it really is the Norwegian version, it should be spelt **Reinlender**. Rheinlander (with 2 dots on the a) is German. Attached is the Holly Payling transcription, but it has an error with the grace note in the first bar and I don't have the program to correct it*.

Is this the same music you were proposing to publish? **

This is what Wikipedia says: Reinlender is one of the most common couple dances in folk. The Norwegian name suggests that it came from the Rhineland. It is related to the dance Schottische and also known as German polka. In Sweden it is called schottis, suggesting that neighbouring people believed that it came from Scotland. Reinlenders was probably known in many parts of Europe, and spread in the 1800s from the dance salons in Paris to become a fashion dance also in northern Europe towards the end of the century.

Caroline Thomas

* Neither do I - musicians take note. **Ed.**

** It looks different to me - but for interest it appears below. **Ed.**



Reinlender

Slowly Norway

A Mod

5 E Am E E7

Intro.

9 E Am E Am

B

13 E Am E Am E Dm E

Am Dm Am E7 Am

The Rheinlander

8 G D G D D G G D G

14 C D7 G G D7

21 C C C G D7

“Wilf Horrocks’ Collection”



Re Rheinlander - a Norwegian couple dance.

According to Nigel Allenby Jaffe, in his book "Folk Dance of Europe", **Rheinländer** “was one of the flood of new dances that swept across Europe in the second half of the nineteenth century and retained some of its old courtship elements and figures”.

There are various Rheinlanders (and variant spellings).

Gammel Reinlender * is one of the dances in the SIFD’s ‘A Selection of European Folk Dances, Book1’ published in 1956 with music and steps, and Harrow Green Folkdance Club danced Reinlander Mad Turar at the SIFD Royal Albert Hall Show in 1959. Norwegian Rheinlanders were popular at Harrow Green after the group’s visit to Norway (in a hired Dakota 'plane, but that’s another story!).

LilyAvery

* The music in the book for Gammel Reinlender appears to be different to both of these shown here. **Ed.**

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

Dec.8th BALKANORTH WORKSHOP & CHRISTMAS PARTY with Marion Nieuwenhuizen followed by dance party, bring & share supper, sing-along/dance-along with Mike & Clyde and Ian Willson. MASSC Hall Leeds. Workshop £7; party £5; combined ticket £10 (in advance). Contact 017687 73117 or mikecmachin@gmail.com

S.I **Dec.8th BALKANPLUS MC** will be Frances Horrocks with live music from Dunav

S.I **Dec.9th FRANK DOWLING** will be leading a day course at Calver Village Hall, Derbyshire, S32 3XR from 10.30 - 4.30. Cost: £12. Details from Janet King (01629 57065 j.king194@btinternet.com) or Greg Boyd (07810181273 greg.boyd99@aol.com).

Dec.9th BALKAN DANCE AFTERNOON. 3-6pm Bridport Town Hall DT6 3HA Teaching sessions between 3pm and 4.45pm, followed by social dance to live music. Cost: £5. info: please ring Mecki on 01308 423 442 or email mecki1@yahoo.co.uk

S.I **Dec.14th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with Dunav Balkan Group. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 2BW Food, drinks and merriment. £5. Details from Brian on 01992 582717

S.I **Dec.14th RAINMAKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY** 8-11pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £2.50 on the night. MC Jill Bransby. All welcome. Please bring food to share. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).

S.I **Dec.14th/16th DANCING AT DUNFORD** details from Dot Bradbury 020 8540 3464.

S.I **Dec.15th SANTA'S FOLK SHOW**, Barnham Village Hall. near Bognor Regis. www.interfolk.co.uk Janet Douglas 01243 265010

Dec.27th TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY at Stone Cross Memorial Hall (junction of B2104 & B2247) 10.30am-4.30pm. Cost £8. (half day £5) Bring CDs or tapes to share dances shared lunch. Enquiries: Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com

S.I **Dec.29th BALKAN DANCE DAY WITH CATHY MEUNIER.** 11-4.30. Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham, North Norfolk. NR21 7LG £10 in advance, £12 on the day. Details: phone Dawn 01328 856582 or email dawnwakefield@btinternet.com.



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)

December 2nd MC: Merton Park

Phil and Brenda Steventon have taught for many years, and choose from a huge range of lovely dances

January 13th (2nd Sunday) MC: SIFD Committee



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