

# S.I.F.O. NEWS



**January 2013**

# **SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING**

registered charity number 284509

[www.sifd.org](http://www.sifd.org)

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Packaging, posting and electronic distribution is done by Dalila Heath.

New Year Wishes to you all, with lots of fun and satisfying dancing.

The front cover of cats in Austrian costume is another design from Lesley Boorer dating back to 1994; and this month, as there is an article about Albania and details of a forthcoming Albanian dance course, we have an Albanian motif.

“Yeni Yilinizi Kutlar” (Turkish wishing a happy New Year). **Ed.**



## Romanian Costume Request

Woodvale IFDG are adding to our collection of costumes with some Romanian costumes. We have already bought and made various items, but are keen to add to these. In particular, we are looking for 5 men’s woven fabric belts, and wondered if anyone in the Society had any to sell, or knows of somewhere we can buy these at a reasonable price. We would also be interested in a few ladies blouses, belts and aprons from southern Romania.

Please contact me on 01732 529531, or [heatherdascalescu@o2.co.uk](mailto:heatherdascalescu@o2.co.uk), or speak to anyone at Woodvale. Thank you.

**Heather Dascalescu**



Hi Folks...

The Reinlender discussion I find most interesting. Here is my contribution. When in Norway on various occasions I was given and also purchased Norwegian Folk Dance cassettes, and, for both ‘Reinlender’ and ‘Gammal Reinlender’ dances the spelling was as I have written. Happy dancing everyone

**Sue Clark (PIFD)**



***mail@SIFD.org*** - 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.

## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

- S.I **Feb.7-12 RIVIERADANCE!** Yves Moreau, France Bourque-Moreau, Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion, singing, music-making and live music with Mike and Clyde. Livermead Hotel Torquay. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. 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](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com)
- S.I **Feb.9 SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 5
- S.I **Feb.9 BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Brian Dowsett
- S.I **Feb.16 ROMANIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** with Sonia Dion & Cristian Florescu at St Ninian's Church Chorlton Manchester, details from Julie Korth: Holly Cottage, off Wigan Rd, Aspull, nr Wigan WN2 1EF or from Mary - [maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk)
- S.I **Feb.17 SIFD DANCE** see page 10
- S.I **Mar.2 SIFD WMIDS 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](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk)
- S.I **Mar.16-17 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](mailto:maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk)
- S.I **Mar.23 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 on 01323 502962 or [silviamcintyre@hotmail.com](mailto:silviamcintyre@hotmail.com)
- S.I **Mar.23 NUTBROOK I. F. D. G.** Day course see page 10
- Mar.23 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](mailto:mecki1@yahoo.co.uk)

**Mar.24 A DAY OF GREEK FOLK DANCE** – A varied programme of Greek folk dances led by Dimitris Triandafyllidis will be held at St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LB (just off the A23 Brighton Road) from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Cost will be £30. Please contact Cherry Allan on 0208 556 5741 or ron.cherry.allen@gmail.com

S.I **Apr.20 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](http://www.interfolk.co.uk)

S.I **Aug.23-26 WILLINGDON I.F.D.G. MINI FESTIVAL** of International and English Folk Dance, Circle Dance and singing at Plumpton College, near Lewes, East Sussex. Full board, plenty of single rooms, £160. 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.*



## **SIFD Afternoon Course**

Saturday February 9th 2-6pm

The workshop at Cecil Sharp House will take the form of a dance swap so if there are any dances you would like to learn please let me know. If you would be willing to teach a dance that you think others would enjoy please contact me too. Email [Brian\\_Maddocks@talk21.com](mailto:Brian_Maddocks@talk21.com) or telephone 020 8393 3413

More details to follow in the February Newsletter.

**Anne Maddocks**

## Residential Albanian Folk Dance Course



In Bournemouth 20th – 22nd September 2013

This is an exciting opportunity to discover traditional Albanian folk dance first hand from Albanian nationals. Until recently little was known about Albanian folklore traditions outside of Albania. Now that Albania is open to the world we are able to discover the richness and diversity of Albanian folklore, not just from the Republic of Albania itself, but also of Albanians living in the Balkan Peninsula and minorities like the Aruman within the Republic of Albania. Genc is a choreographer for the National Ensemble, but he is very interested in the traditional dances of Albania and will bring authentic material which he has researched. Helga is also a solo dancer in the Ensemble and she assists Genc with his courses and teaches the women's dances. They are both charming and warm-hearted people and will steal your hearts away!

In addition to this Mike and Clyde will provide live music for the weekend. This adds a whole new dimension to our residential weekends as they are able to offer live music for the social dances, and singing and music-making workshops for anyone who would like to have a go.

The cost of the weekend is £175 (with a discount for family and friends not participating on the course). It includes 2 night's dinner bed & breakfast in comfortable ensuite hotel accommodation. The course will start on Friday afternoon and end around 11:30 am on Sunday. For full details and a booking form contact Cathy Meunier: email [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com) tel 017687 73117 or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX. **Cathy Meunier**

## Eastbourne Festival 2013 May 3rd - 5th

The new Festival Committee has been working very hard to ensure that it will be a great weekend. On the international side we are pleased to announce that this year Roberto Bagnoli is returning to increase our Israeli repertoire with four workshops as well as taking one Italian workshop. Corry Verheijen, who is no stranger to the festival will be teaching mainly Balkan dances with a few South Sea Island dances for good measure. Dalila Heath is cutting short her Turkish holiday to be with us for the weekend again to share her superb Armenian knowledge.

We have a new music group called 'Maggie's Mix' led by Maggie Kaye and Rod Stradling who are already practising for the evening dances! Boyco's Bulgarian group are coming on the Sunday for our Meet the Team session - if you attended the recent Dance Around the World at Cecil Sharp House - you will know this young group are in fine form.

Do try and come, it promises to be a memorable event. You can see more details on the festival website <http://www.eiff.org.uk/>

Friendly box office - 01823 401271

### Julie, Mary & the Barlow Group



### Well Done,

Just a quickie to say CONGRATULATIONS. The mag. was so colourful and beautifully arranged - lovely cover. Really special Christmassy/celebration feel to it.

Particularly loved the reprint of Pete and Eleanor's wedding. Lovely idea.\* Hope all your endeavours go well and our paths cross on some dance floor next year – this has NOT been the best of years for me.

Thanks again,

**Diki Gleeson**

\* It was Lily Avery's idea and Eleanor was pleased to see it again. **Ed**



*Latvian folk dancers at a festival in 1935*





## **MacLennan Scottish Group**

32nd International Folk Dance Festival

Saturday 25th May 7.30pm - 11pm Folk Dance

Sunday 26th May 2pm - 5.30pm Concert

Both events will be held at The Priory School, Tintagel Road,  
Orpington, BR5 4LG

Please note the new venue!!

Website: [www.msg.org.uk](http://www.msg.org.uk) Email: [enquiries@msg.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@msg.org.uk)

**Dot Fuller**



### **SIFD Dance**

The next Sunday evening dance at Cecil Sharp House is on Sunday 13th January and will be led by the Committee. It should be a lively evening with varied dance styles and of course live music from our talented band. Following tradition, it would be lovely if as many people as possible could come in costume for our first dance of the year.

The February dance is on Sunday February 17th and will be led by Anne Leach. Please note that this is the 3rd Sunday of the month.

**Anne Maddocks**



### **A Mixed Bag of Dances from Around the World**

Nutbrook International Folk dance Group - led by Geoff Weston  
Saturday March 23rd 10.30a.m. - 1.00p.m. 2.00p.m. - 4.30p.m.

French Flavoured dance workshop 10.30 - 12.45

Concoction of countries 1.45 to 4.00

Price: all day £8.00. 1 session £5.00 No experience or partner needed.

Tea/Coffee/ cold drinks available. [www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk](http://www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk)

info Jane 01332 882117 or John or Gill 0115 9171831 e mail

[gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)

**Luisa Martinez-Pomares**

## Summer School DVDs

I am most gratified by Richard Mellish's detailed response to my comments concerning the Summer School DVDs. I expressed my appreciation of the hard work that goes into the organisation of the Summer School, and I would have thought that arranging the filming, producing, editing, packaging and distribution of the DVDs is part of the organisation and therefore included as deserving of appreciation. Richard seems to think I have pointedly ignored the amount of hard work undertaken by the video team, therefore I can only conclude that Richard does not consider himself to be part of the team.

As regards having two cameras to record the circle dances, one inside and one outside, what an excellent idea. Richard also suggests starting filming earlier in the week, possibly Wednesday. Again, an excellent idea. It would relieve the pressure of cramming everything in on the last day.

I won't be returning the affected DVD or asking for any refund. I wouldn't be so mean.

Before you ask, yes I have used a video camera - in India - with strong sunlight, deep shadow, heat, noise, crowds, dust and dirt. Not easy.

**Frances Horrocks**



Dear Janet,

Thank you for a lovely bright and colourful December 2012 News. Just a couple of comments.

In Germany, it's Weihnachten - weih means Holy or consecrated. Harrow Green danced Rheinlender Med Torar - med meaning with.

- \* These may have been printing errors - sorry to have pointed them out. Keep up your good work. With all the best for 2013.

**Ruth Coton**

- \* (Ruth is not the only person to point them out - the Welsh was wrong too) **Ed.**



## Stories About Albania

I could go on and on about the area of the triple frontier (Albania Greece Macedonia), where Zoé and I for some strange reason felt very drawn and very at home, but will limit myself to three stories:

1. Did you know that Ali Pasha, for all his tyranny and cruelty, was very taken with Lord Byron? He was very pleased to be visited by a British Lord, and completely spoiled Byron whom he treated as a son. If I recollect rightly, Lord Byron then got involved in Greek independence, and in fact died there. (Ali Pasha was at the time fighting WITH the Greeks against his Turkish overlord, the Sultan, having massacred the Greeks previously, including the Greek hero Katsandonis. The latter's dance, Katsandonis, is an Epiran Tsamikos; I wonder if anyone in the UK knows it?). The Sultan eventually got fed up with Ali Pasha's attempts to become an independent king and sent an army to kill him at Ali's castle on the Lake of Ioannina, in modern day Greek Epirus. If you visit Epirus, don't forget the capital, Ioannina, a very Greek town, few tourist frills, but full of history; it even has some of the last minarets in Greece (others in remote Thracian valleys, far to the east. I imagine everyone knows the dance Ali Pasha? And the story of the Souli heroines in about 1803 who, surrounded by Ali's army, danced Kalamatianos over the Zalongo cliff with their children. A Greek woman did Not fall into the hands of the Turks... (Has anyone seen the huge monument? Just north of Preveza, three women and three children dancing).

2. The second story is of the famous Gjirokaster festival, a big dance and song festival that took place every 5 years in the Southern Albanian town of Gjirokaster - in the ruins of another of Ali Pasha's castles there. We were there in 1988 and 1990, and you can see the town from the hills of Greece.

Villages from all over Albania train for two years for Gjirokaster, and started off in '88 with a huge procession through the museum city (which is also the birthplace of the dictator Enver Hoxha, pronounced Hodger) all in foustanelas - the Albanians wear them too, only longer than in Greece. Tourists were so few that our group was ushered right to the front, and we found ourselves seated right next to the Politburo!

Several of us actually shook hands with Ramiz Alia, Enver Hoxha's successor! An estimated 50,000 people were there.

The Tosk dances (the Tosks are the tribe of S. Albania) were superb, but the most amusing were from the Greek minority and the Italian Albanians (who emigrated to Italy in the Middle Ages and spoke - to Albanian ears a weird dialect, like Chaucer's English to us...) The Greek minority were cut off at the end of the Greek civil war (ended 1949) from their families and friends in Greek Epirus - another cruelty of war - and couldn't visit Greece again until 1990. The Greeks WERE allowed to visit their family in Albania, though.) Hospitality is a feature of Albanian society. Outside we were class enemies, to be treated with great suspicion. In fact only a very few nationalities were allowed in, in 1988. Certainly no Americans, and NO Russians (plus NO bibles, no long hair, and no miniskirts! But once in, having taken six months to organise the tour and group entry (no individual visas were issued until the 90s, nothing was too good for us. We had passed, were friends, above all because we were interested in their dances and culture - you cannot pay a higher complement to a Balkan people than that! Hence the favoured treatment...

3. My last story is a rather humorous one. One of my best friends, Philippe Hein, from Oxford university days, and then an official in the United Nations, needed to see his opposite number in a ministry, in Tirana. He had been trying unsuccessfully to get a visa for some time, when he heard we were going dancing there. So he had the brainwave of asking if he could come on our group visa. Of course I said yes, and he had his two days off in Tirana on business, while for the rest of the tour he danced with our group - and damn well too!

But the highlight of our trip was when Philippe, who is from Mauritius, scared us by announcing that he'd forgotten to get the necessary (for him) re-entry visa to Greece. We'd never thought of that, of course, because all the rest of us were Europeans. A certain unease overtook us, we did not wish to see poor Philippe blocked in Tirana. So our dance teacher, Bekim, had to leave us to our own devices and take him into the very sealed embassy quarter, where he left Philippe at the guard post to go in alone (Albanians were not permitted there, as there was a very tense crisis on - some Albanians had just taken refuge in the Italian embassy, immediately becoming

traitors, and the Tirana government was threatening to storm the embassy).

We can picture my friend walking down the empty street, like something out of “High Noon”, and knocking on the door of the Greek embassy! The door was opened by the (very bored) Greek consul (remember NO individual visas for Albanians nor tourists into or out of Albania at that time), who asked what on earth Philippe was doing there! It was, to say the least, a highly unusual circumstance, and Philippe told his story over drinks, making the consul’s day! I am sending a copy of this to Philippe in case after 20 years I have exaggerated. I think not!

I am sending this to SIFD, because our FIRST journey to Albania, in 1986, was with some of their members, and was only one year away from the famous puddle of disinfectant on the border whereby we corrupt capitalist counter-revolutionaries could purify ourselves before entering the peoples’ paradise...

I hope some of this is of interest to some of you. It’s fairly unique, as of course, Ramiz Alia, having observed the fate of the Ceausescus opened Albania (after 45 years of complete isolation) in 1990.

**David Roberts**



Dear Janet

You mentioned at the end of your article about Rheinlander that the music for **Gammel Reinlander** is different from the two tunes published. Gammal Reinlander is a fixed sequence of Reinlander figures associated with a specific tune, (as is “Swedish Schottische”) while there many Reinlander / Schottis tunes (however the dance name is spelt). When dancing in Norway or Sweden I have found that the number of figures done by most people is very limited, and in a crowded room only the basic figure might be done. With more space and a confident partner the dance can become far more exciting and following an unpredictable lead becomes a real challenge, and a lot of fun. If anyone would like to try the improvised versions, come to Scandia on a Monday evening.

**Jeanette Hull**

## **Balkanplus**

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 12th January at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.

MC for the evening will be Meryl Abraham. Admission £5.

**Maureen Felton**



## **Bohemian Dancing**

The Prague DVORANA is again this summer going to organise a week course of Czech and Moravian dancing. The course will take place at the end of August (23rd August – 1st September). If you are interested, see further details on their website [www.dvorana.cz](http://www.dvorana.cz).

**Dal Sudwell**



## **SIFD Committee**

- Chair: Helen Ezra 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB  
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- Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,  
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- Membership Secretary: Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park, Hatfield.  
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## Nickelsdorfer Schottische

Austria

Musical score for Nickelsdorfer Schottische, Austria. The score is written in 2/4 time and consists of three staves. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The third staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score includes various chords (C, G7, F, C7, Bb) and rests. The piece is marked with a repeat sign and a first ending bracket.

Nobody has written about **Nickelsdorfer Schottische** (which is probably similar to Reinlendar).

Next month **Kalamatianos - Samiotissa** will be featured - time for the Greek folk dance enthusiasts to write in. **Ed.**



## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

- S.I **Saturday 12th BALKANPLUS** see page 15
- S.I **Sunday 13th (2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday) SIFD DANCE/WORKSHOPS** 7–10pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, NW1 7AY £8 SIFD members £9 non-members £4 children 14-18 (under 14 free) see p.10
- S.I **Saturday 26th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford OX2 6TN. 7:00 to 10:30. Food and drink provided. Music: CDs and Dunav. Tickets will be sold at the door: £10; Children under 14, £4.00. For more information email: [sally.humphrey@onetel.net](mailto:sally.humphrey@onetel.net) or [charlottehaenlein@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:charlottehaenlein@tiscali.co.uk)



All material for the February issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor **IN WRITING** by 17th January.