



SIFD NEWS
February 2013

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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

The front cover picture shows three children from the Barlow group getting ready to perform Setskiye Zori; see page 17 for more about the back cover picture; the dancers around the globe are from Tineke van Geel's leaflets.



As there is space to fill this month I'll tell you a (true) story:

Just before Christmas (having just sent off the January News) I took the dog around the local fields - I had some misgivings but driving elsewhere was impossible with the floods. At the point where the two fields join I could see tractors had made things worse but going back the way I had come seemed a worse option than trying to get across.

Further along my right boot sunk deep into the mud, and, as I tried to free it my foot came free; standing on one leg I struggled with the boot and managed to tug it out although I had to briefly touch down in the mud with my stocking'd foot. So I peeled off the now muddy sock (still standing on one leg!) and got my foot back into the boot and tried to carry on.

But, having stood on one leg for so long the other boot was stuck fast - I had it all to do again! But, the left boot was much more difficult to free and I got as far as taking off another muddy sock when I pitched into the (manure flavoured) mud.

Surrounded by acres of mud and more muddy fields I rent the sky with prayers, screams, every expletive I could think of (amazing how many came to mind) but silence and the odd (laughing) bird was all I got in reply.

I had to crawl out (watched by my dog with her head to one side - who then turned her back on me and sat facing the other direction).

On the way home, nobody spoke as they passed me, just staring and looking away with embarrassment. Then as I waited to cross, a car stopped beside me with Father Christmas in the passenger seat. He looked at me gravely, let down his window and said "Ho, ho, ho".

What has this to do with International Folk Dancing? Well..... there was a moment - as I balanced on one leg - when I thought "I am only able to balance like this because of all the dancing".

Ed.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar.2 BULGARIAN DANCE EVENING with Boyko Andonov and Dragan.Draganov. Cecil Sharp House. 2 Regent's Park Rd. NW1 7AY Trefusis Hall 5.15 – 9pm, £7 (pay on the door) The event is open to anyone and is suitable for kids*(free of charge) 07900904370

S.I **Mar.2 SIFD W.MIDS DAY COURSE** see page 12

Mar.9 BALKANPLUS - MCs will be the Ipswich Group

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

S.I **Mar.17 SIFD DANCE** see page 15

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.

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

S.I **Apr.14 SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** Cecil Sharp House.

S.I **Apr.14 SIFD DANCE** see page 15

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

S.I **May.3-6 SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND** (though most people now stay on to the Tuesday which would be the 7th) Dancing led by Janet Woolbar, gentle walks in and around the Quantocks. A Sunday coach trip will be organised - destination yet to be arranged Contact Gordon Adie : 0772 380 2894 grdnadie@aol.com

May.3-6 EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL

www.eiff.org.uk or tel: 01823 401271

Jun.1 PERFORMANCE OF TANEC- Bulgarian Dance Group with the London Bulgarian Choir. 8pm – 10pm, £7 Kennedy Hall, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd. NW1 7AY tel: 07900904370

S.I Aug.23-26 WILLINGDON IFDG 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.



**Balkanplus Romanian Workshop Weekend -
change of date.**

I had previously blazoned the news of Marius Ursu's first UK visit as being in September. However, with their ever expanding programme of in-house events, Cecil Sharp House had up till now been unable to guarantee weekend reservations this year. Happily, there is now a new firm date that can be inked in your 2013 diaries. The workshops will now take place on the weekend of 26th and 27th October 2013.

Balkanplus will shift the monthly dance to coincide with the workshops and we plan to make it a very special weekend with an array of invited guests on Saturday evening. Full details will be published in the next few weeks, or click on the website www.balkanplus.org.uk

Brian Dowsett

A Report on the SIFD's Funds

At the AGM in the autumn I said I would write this article, to give members some information about the Funds shown on the Balance Sheet in the annually published Accounts.

The Accounts show six Funds. Three are the Life Membership Fund, the Summer School Fund and the General Fund, the nature and purpose of which is hopefully self-explanatory. This is a report on the 3 other Funds, ie

The Lucile Armstrong Memorial Fund

The Legacy and Major Donations Fund

The Frank Flanagan Fund

The Lucile Armstrong Memorial Fund was set up in 1988 with donations made in Lucile's memory when she died. The income arising in the Fund is used to finance an annual £50 donation to the prize money at the Folk Dance Competition at the Llangollen International Eisteddfod, at which Lucile was for many years a judge.

The Legacy and Major Donations Fund was set up in 2000, with the \$10,000 (£6,673) left to us by Gwendolyn Peacher. Subsequent smaller donations have been received, including approximately £1700 from the Folkestone Group on its closure. The Society recently received a £15,000 legacy from Joan Richardson and this has been placed in this Fund. The current total balance on the Fund is £22,669

It has been agreed that Interest arising to the Fund should be used to assist member ventures etc, both as set out in the Event Underwriting Policy (extract copied on page 13, as previously published), and also otherwise as appropriate, all cases being considered on their merits. A number of payments have been made over the years. There is money unspent and therefore available to meet appropriate applications.

The Fund's Capital is used for "special" projects and purchases. For example there was a £950 costume purchase in 2004. If money is given to the SIFD with a request that it be used in a particular way it is earmarked for that purpose and spent as and when appropriate.

The Frank Flanagan Fund

This was established in 2010 with the £28,900 Legacy from Frank Flanagan. No conditions were imposed as to the use of the money, but the Committee would like the money to be used on projects of which it is thought Frank Flanagan would have approved. There has been discussion in Committee and in AGM, and members were invited to put forward ideas and also to volunteer to help.

So far the Fund has been used as follows:

We have subsidised an additional musician at the 2012 Summer School. A similar subsidy will be made at subsequent Summer Schools.

We have set up a Bursary Scheme with the object of providing financial support for the attendance of SIFD Teachers and potential teachers and leaders at appropriate training events, with resultant benefit to the Society. Two awards were made in 2012.

It has been agreed that we would like to subsidise/support a Dance Weekend in Frank's memory, and also further Weekends, as Frank very much enjoyed these. A request for volunteers to organise or help was made in the SIFD News, but no-one has come forward in this respect.

It has been agreed in principle that we should offer a subsidy for "special" Daycourses.

The current total balance in the Fund is £28,771. The Committee have agreed that at present both the capital and income of the Fund can be used to finance appropriate projects.

The money in The Legacy and Major Donations Fund and in the Frank Flanagan Fund has been given to the Society, by people who wanted to help us and to aid our cause. If you have an idea for a project which you think would do this and qualify for finance from the Funds please contact anyone on the Committee. Some projects that we may wish to undertake would involve a significant amount of planning and administrative work. If you feel able to help in such a capacity we'd love to talk with you.

Judith Payling

The Sardana - How to dance it by Brian R. Bishop

Just before Christmas to my surprise, a copy of this book arrived with the compliments of the author.

Many visitors to Catalonia will have seen the sardana, some may have joined in, and others wanted to; this book is for them and those planning a visit. The author describes it as a guide, it is: giving a general description of the scene, history, band and music; instruction in the steps, the pattern of the dance, and the etiquette of joining it, along with advice on how to enjoy doing so!

All this is in the first half; the author then gives the details of the counting, but advises not to study this until one is competent in the dance. The book ends with some music, a translation of the associated song, a delightful poem on the dance and the Rules of the Sardana.

It is A4 size, thirty-four pages, ring bound, well referenced including the Internet, and has appropriate illustrations; the photograph at the foot of page 7 showing how communal the dance is!

The S.I.F.D. has helped with its production, not the text, but the layout, including the cover design, transcription of the original draft manuscript onto computer, and publication. There is mention of the work of Kelsey Blundell and Robert Harrold.

All concerned deserve credit for a book that is; enjoyable to read, easy to use, is an excellent introduction to the sardana. Dance teachers and those visiting Catalonia will find it useful and rewarding. Buy it before you go, or if you have already “dipped your toe” into the sardana, then to refresh your experience. The cost is £10, and full details for ordering it with postage costs for both the UK and abroad, will be available next month.

Roy Clarke

As a footnote to the above, I first encountered the Sardana at Harrow Green in the 1950s, taught by Ivy Oughton (later Romney) and then by Kelsey Blundell, but it was also taught at early Swansea Courses 1963 and 65, and has been again at recent Summer Schools.

A tip from Margaret Webb is to stitch Chamois Leather to the soles of rope soled sandals to avoid slipping if using them indoors. **Roy**

Great Alne Long Weekend - 30th Anniversary!?

Dear all,

The 2013 Great Alne Long Weekend will be the 30th event of its kind - I hope you will be able to come and join in the celebrations!

This year, the festival is running from Friday 26 April to Monday 29 April, and we'll have a host of workshops and sessions from many of our favourite callers and teachers. As usual, you're welcome to come along for all or just part of the weekend and join in any of the sessions.

We're looking forward to hosting the great dance teacher Karin from the Netherlands again - don't miss out!

Early bird booking will be opening soon, so you can pre-book your ticket for the whole weekend. And if you'd like to know more about the weekend, accommodation or any other details, feel free to get in touch.

Further details can also be found on the website - visit www.greatalnefolk.org.uk - have a look round!

We look forward to seeing you there!

Great Alne Committee



SIFD Afternoon Workshop

This will be held on Saturday 9th February at Cecil Sharp House from 2pm until 6pm. Dances at afternoon workshops are taught in detail, with the aim that everyone present will learn something new, whether you've been dancing for a few weeks, or many years.

The list includes: A fast circle dance from Israel, a Macedonian women's wedding dance, a couple dance from Finland, a kolo traditionally danced with candles and a fun and fast paced dance from the north of Norway.

No special shoes or clothing needed – just something comfortable and shoes that don't slip too much. £8 members, £10 non-members

Anne Maddocks



Barlow dancers at Kalinka Concert (see page 18)



West Midlands Day of Dance and Music Workshops

On Saturday 2nd March the W Mids Branch are hosting another combined dance and music day, this time with a mainly Balkan theme. We are lucky to have persuaded the dream team of Cathy Meunier, Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver to run this event for us and are looking forward to taking advantage of all their talents with a wonderful day of playing, dancing and singing.

The venue for this varied day will be Solihull Methodist Church Hall, Blossomfield Road, B91 1LG. There is good parking and easy access from the M42 (Jn 5) for those travelling by car. The church is also next door to Solihull bus and train stations, so easily accessible by public transport.

The workshops will run from 10.30am to 4.30pm as follows:

10.30 – 11.45	Musicians workshop with Mike & Clyde
12.00 – 1.15	Dancing with Cathy to the workshop band
2.00 – 3.15	Singing and dancing workshop
3.30 – 4.30	Final dance session

The cost for the whole day will be £15 (£12); for musicians for the morning or dancers from midday onwards £12 (£10); afternoon session only (singing and dancing) £7 (£5) Under 18s free. (Discounts for SIFD members in brackets)

Tea/coffee and cold drinks will be available throughout the day, but please bring your own lunch.

Music will be available in advance for the musicians, preferably by email in pdf format. Please contact me early, especially if you require transposed music for Bb clarinet etc. Singers who are unable to dance would be welcome to join the afternoon session – dancing and singing at the same time is great fun, but can be tricky, so support from extra singers would be a definite help!

Dancers, musicians and singers (or any combination of the three) please join us for what promises to be an exciting day of Balkan music and dance!

For more information and music contact Maggie Kaye on 0797-464-9311 or email margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk

Invitation !

Come and join us for twelve memorable days and nights of music, dance and more ...

... in beautiful Prespes, in the northwest corner of Greece. The two lakes, the Mikri and the Megali, are shared with Greece by Albania and the former Republic of Macedonia, creating the rich history and cultural diversity unique to the region.

The Programme includes : Lessons in Dance and Cultural Traditions with Regional Specialists from all over Greece. Dancing to Florina Brass Band Music at village festivals ("Panegiri") and parties ("Glendi"). Excursions to explore the beauty, rich history, and living traditions of Prespes and Florina. Presentations on the Culture, Costumes, History, Traditions of Prespes and other Regions Plus ... Full Board, in hotels or traditional guesthouses, dance lessons, cultural activities, evening glendi, excursions and transport to all seminar activities. Single supplement.

For information, contact Yannis Konstantinou : yankost@otenet.gr / +30 6944 946 227

or Caroline Simmonds : caroline_simmonds@hotmail.com

and visit www.mimallones.gr for more information about Prespes !



(Extract from) **The Event & Activities Underwriting Policy**

(as revised 2009) (*see page 6 for Judith's article*) The Society may underwrite an event or activity, or provide a subsidy, if the event or activity is in furtherance of the Society's objectives as set out in the Constitution, AND if in the absence of financial support the event or activity might not take place, would not take place, or would be substantially less effective.

The Executive Committee has authority to agree or refuse any application for funding on its merits, but will be guided by the extent of the foreseen benefit to the Society's objectives in relation to the amount of money sought and by the state of the Society's finances at the time.

Judith Payling

Looking towards the next Summer School.

I know that preparations are already being made for the next Summer School, and I would like to make some suggestions, based on discussions I have had with those colleagues who were there.

The intense disappointment which many of us felt was because we have got used to much better ways of doing things. At this point I would like to pay tribute to the work which Cathy Meunier has been doing for a long time which has fitted in so well with what my colleague Julie Korth and I have been doing. Fifteen years ago we decided to try to bring excellent folk dance teaching to the North, and we have been so successful that our weekends are widely supported and are nearly always full, with a waiting list. Cathy has brought excellent teachers to her weekends and so the Balkan dancing has developed at a great rate. We have moved on so quickly that we have a flourishing folk dance scene here in the North.

Firstly, what makes our weekends so enjoyable? We can take for granted the quality of the teaching. The difference is with the Social dancing. Julie and I made a rule at the start “no teaching in a Social Dance”. The classes are the place for that. There may be a ‘partner moment’ or some figure which needs an explanation but this should be done to music and danced. If a dance repeats ten times a dancer should have got it by the third time, or if not they can shadow it from behind till confident.

Secondly, we have done away with the idea that the MC needs to choose and lead every dance. The MC needs to be a coordinator and perhaps an announcer. Our dances are full of variety and fun because the Coordinator has chosen dance leaders who are leading from their strengths. We ask people we know or groups, to choose and lead 5 or 6 of their dances which are well known, or followable. This method has brought forward several people who previously had no chance to show what they could do. The same thing has happened with the music. For Cathy’s latest weekends Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver have played or coordinated the music. They now have an amazing repertoire themselves and they have encouraged other musicians to come forward and reveal their talents. They have coordinated the dance leadership, and it was noticeable that Frank Dowling used the same method at

Ken's Memorial dance. He was the MC but didn't lead everything. This method works really well, and it shares out the work and responsibility for the evening. It adds variety and brings people together.

Thirdly, the question of the videoing has been well discussed, and again I can't understand why, when we have got used to such excellent filming from Ron Wilks and before him, John Riley, the Society went back to a system which has failed in the past. Some of us have moved on, and we are no longer satisfied with the excuse that it has always been done that way. If something isn't working, then change it.

I appreciate all the hard work which went into the planning of Swansea, and the many positive aspects, but the evenings are when you can relax and just enjoy the dancing, and meet up with people who were not in the same classes as yourself, and watch what they have done in their lessons. I want the next committee to give as much thought to the social aspects as they do to the choice of teachers, and if any one wants to discuss what I have said I will be pleased to talk to them.

Marina Wolstenholme

leader of the Derbyshire Dancers since 1967, SIFD teacher since 1970



SIFD Dance/Workshops

The next Sunday evening dance at Cecil Sharp House is on **Sunday 17th February** and will be led by **Anne Leach**. Come along and enjoy a wide selection of dances to live music. Members £8, non-members £9
The March dance is on Sunday 17th and will be led by Helen Ezra.

Anne Maddocks



Balkanplus

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 9th February at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs for the evening will be the Barnet Group. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

Samiotissa Kalamatianos

Musical score for Samiotissa Kalamatianos, featuring a treble clef, key signature of one sharp (F#), and 7/8 time signature. The score is divided into four systems of music. The first system starts with a G chord and a mezzo-forte (mf) dynamic. The second system begins at measure 6 and includes a piano (p) dynamic and a crescendo hairpin. The third system starts at measure 12. The fourth system starts at measure 17 and includes a first ending (1.) and a second ending (2.). Chords indicated include G, Dm, D7, Am, and D.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

There are two other manuscripts for **Kalamatianos** - next month the music for **Kalamatianos (Evangelio)**. **Ed**



Re Kalamatianos-Samiotissa

Kalamatianos, as most of you will know, is a dance whose time signature is 7/8 (3,2,2 or slow, quick, quick). The name refers to the town of Kalamata in the Southern Peloponnesos. Kalamata was one of the centres of silk manufacture during the time of the Byzantine Empire and silk kerchiefs were highly prized; men often presented them as a symbol of love. At a time when holding hands could create a scandal (or could be a declaration of intent to marry), the men offered their kerchiefs instead of their hands to their partners to hold and some dancers still do this, but mostly just the leader and the next in line.

Many years ago I was on holiday in Greece, spending time in a small village. I went into the local taverna for a cool drink and to listen to some Greek music in the background. When Kalamatianos came on,

to my delight some of the young men sitting at the bar or tables got up to dance. I could not resist joining them as it is a dance I have so often danced, enjoyed and taught. The Greeks were very surprised to see this middle-aged English woman dancing their Kalamatianos and there was a round of applause at the end!

However, for the rest of the week I had to slip quietly past this taverna on the other side of the road as every time the waiters saw me they shouted “Kalamatianos” and insisted that I go in to lead it! Very welcoming, but embarrassing!

I’m not sure why Samiotissa is mentioned alongside Kalamatianos as Samiotissa is the name of a singing-dance taught by Natassa Lemos. I have the Greek words to the song but not the dance notes so I don’t know of any link.

Lily Avery



Balkanorth!

I would just like to say how much I enjoyed going to Leeds for the Balkanorth session in December!

In the afternoon Marion Nieuwenhuizens taught us four enjoyable dances - Coconeasca, Dafino Oro, Straro Zensko and Valle e Came. She was accompanied by Clyde Olliver on the accordion and Mike Machin on the violin who as always, played beautifully.

We had a break for a delicious ‘bring and share’ supper where we all ate too much.

After eating we enjoyed a very lively varied programme of dances led by Loidis teachers Linda, Lorna and Ian as well as by Marion. A lot of the dances were again to live music! The most amusing dance of the evening was taught by Linda - Flor Amorosa - a Brazilian Hat dance for which we wore a selection of weird and wonderful hats! (*see back page*)

Thank You to the Loidis Group, Mike, Clyde, Cathy and Marion for organising it - I had a wonderful time!

Mary O’Mahony

Kalinka Concert 2012

Barlow Dance Group performed again at the Royal Northern College in Manchester at the Charity Concert that is organised every December for the ROOF Charity for orphans in St. Petersburg.

The dances were taught and arranged by Naomi Ryder. These included Setskiye Zori, danced in trios with scarves and Krasnays Devitsa a partner dance both which Maggie O'Regan had taught us in Swansea. There were 31 of us dancing, aged from 5 to 80. Julie Korth supported Naomi and had a big job on altering 16 costumes for the 16 children who will just keep on growing!

We were accompanied with live music and singing with members of the Kalinka group.

The performance was very colourful and lively, the dances were contrasting styles and tempos and were enthusiastically received by the audience.

Mary O'Mahony



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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.





WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- S.I **Feb.7th/12th RIVIERADANCE!** Yves Moreau, France Bourque-Moreau, Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion, singing, music-making and live music with Mike and Clyde. Livermead Hotel Torquay. s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier,23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com.
- S.I **Feb.9th SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 9
- S.I **Feb.9th BALKANPLUS** see page 15
- Feb.16thROBIN GILLAN, BRIAN CLEARY** trad American songs, 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. NW1 2HR 020 7281 7700
- S.I **Feb.17th SIFD DANCE** see page 15
- Feb.23rd JEFF DAVIS** trad American songs, 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. NW1 2HR 020 7281 7700



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