

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

Addendum:

S.I. April 26th to 29th (Friday evening to Monday afternoon) 30th Anniversary **GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (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.

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

This month's cover by Christopher Green first appeared in March1968; "from an Ancient Egyptian dancing manual". March SIFD News can be deciphered, but I'm not sure about 1968 so there is also a modern equivalent (Wingdings 3).

My apologies to the Surrey based Greek group, who are hosting Dimitris Triandafyllidis on March 23rd, for omitting the details last month - see the back page for more information.

Ed.



SIFD Sunday Afternoon Workshop

14th April 2-6pm at Cecil Sharp House

to Introduce the Package 10 Dances

In the last few years we have re-issued almost all the old SIFD recordings on CD, and we have published a new edition of the booklet with the music notation and dance notes to accompany CD4; but it is a very long time since we produced a completely new package of recordings and booklet. We are at last putting that right.

The afternoon course ON SUNDAY APRIL 14th will introduce some of the dances from our new Package 10, which will be available for sale on the day (and of course thereafter). Some of these dances are old favourites which have previously lacked good SIFD recordings, some are perhaps in danger of being forgotten but deserving to be revived, and some are fairly new to the Society's repertoire. There are twenty-six dances, far too many to be taught on one day, but if there is the demand we may be able to run another course to cover some more. The list of dances to be taught in April will appear in the April SIFD News but make a note in your diary now to keep the afternoon free and don't forget that the April Sunday evening dance is on the same day.

This workshop is for everyone whether you have been dancing for many years or a few months.

Anne Maddocks and Richard Mellish on behalf of the SIFD committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I Apr.13 BALKANPLUS MC will be Toni Gutman
- S.I Apr.14 SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE see page 3
- S.I **Apr.14 SIFD DANCE** see page 7
- 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 with Roberto Bagnoli, Corry Verheijen, Dalila Heath and Tanec 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 Jul.27. A DAY OF MOSTLY RUSSIAN DANCES at Stone Cross Memorial Hall nr Eastbourne. 10.15 for 10.30 4.30. £10. Shared lunch. Telephone or email bookings appreciated. Rowena 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- 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

S.I Sep.20-22 RESIDENTIAL ALBANIAN FOLK DANCE course with Genc Kastrati and Helga Saraci in Bournemouth. Comfortable ensuite accommodation, DB&B. Live music, social dancing, singing and music-making workshops with Mike and Clyde. Cost £175 (discount for non-dancing friends and family). For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email your request to cathy meunier@hotmail.com

S.I **Sep.26-27 BALKANPLUS WORKSHOP WITH MARIUS URSU** see page 9



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.



Extra Stewards Needed for Eastbourne 2013

If you are going to be at the Eastbourne International Festival this year please consider volunteering to be a steward.

We have been asked to provide extra volunteers to help with setting up on Friday, clearing up on Monday, and running the front desk. We also need to cover all the sessions we run.

If you can help with the sessions, please contact Rowena (rowenahmartin@hotmail.com or 01323 503991).

Rowena Martin



Fond Memories of The Sardana

I have just read with interest Roy's article on The Sardana. It took me back to the many summer holidays we spent with the children on the Costa Brava. Every year there was a performance of The Sardana, and over the years and bit by bit I perfected the style of the dance, so much so that one year in the seaside town of Llafranch I was invited to join in the circle and I think for the first time got right the way through the sequence without a mistake - and at the end I was 'bravo-ed' by the participants. I felt truly honoured by this gesture; as there is no way I look Spanish, and yet the applause was spontaneous. I took this as a great compliment coming from the usually serious Catalonians. I did, however, blot my copy book on another occasion when I tried to enter a circle uninvited, and was severely reprimanded. Apparently there is a taboo (which had hitherto escaped me) that once the dance has commenced you don't break the circle unless invited to do so watch out for that.

I haven't danced the Sardana since that time (late 60s early 70s) but still remember the experience with great pleasure.

The dance did feature a couple of years ago but I was away otherwise I would have had a go. I would be rusty so would need a refresher. As there seems to be a renewed interest I hope I can have another go at some time.

Valerie Ralph



SIFD Insurance

Please note that with effect from Friday 8 February 2013 R S Thom Insurance Brokers Ltd is moving to:

89 Chepstow Close, Stevenage, Hertfordshire, SG1 5TT 01438 316651 richard@rsthominsurance.co.uk

I will still be working from home but have moved to accommodate my mother as her health has deteriorated slightly and she wishes to be back in Stevenage, with her family helping to look after her when necessary.

Richard S. Thom

A Day Of Unusual Dances

Saturday March 23, 10.30 - 4.30 at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, Eastbourne BN24 5ET.

In this workshop I shall teach dances from South Sea Islands, South America, Asia, and a couple or so from closer to home. Among other things, we shall praise our island, placate the God of the Volcano, catch fish, pick tea and have fun with scarves. For a lyrical element I am going to do the beautiful Russian Lace Dance (Vologodskiye Kruzheva). List of dances, subject to minor alterations:

Nga Tama Maori Tatu E (New Zealand)

Khanty Mansi (Siberia)

We Gut Ewrything Tahiti Gut (Norfolk Island)

Love Dance from Mow Lam (Taiwan)

Pu'u Oni Oni (Hawai)

Teapicker's Dance (Taiwan)

Carnavalito (Bolivia)

Misket (Turkey)

Fiesta Aymara (Peru)

Vologodskiye Kruzheva (Russia)

The cost is £10. Please bring a packed lunch - drinks provided. More information and booking from Silvia McIntyre, 01323 502962, or silviamcintyre@hotmail.com.

Silvia Mcintyre



SIFD Sunday Dance

The Sunday dance at Cecil Sharp House, London NW2, will be on March 17th 7pm -10pm and will be led by Helen Ezra. Helen's programmes always include a wide variety of dances and suit beginners as well as experienced dancers.

If you have never been to a Sunday dance before do come and join us - no need to bring a partner.

Sunday April 14th - Woodvale

Anne Maddocks

Canadian Identity

The following article, edited and tweaked, is from the latest issue of Folk Dancer the Canadian International Folk Dance magazine. In Canada, they have the 'First Nations', referring to Aboriginal peoples whose rights are enshrined in their Constitution. English and French are accorded special status reflecting the 'two founding peoples' or 'nations' of Canada. Those whose ancestry is other than Aboriginal, British or French are usually the ones who are referred to as belonging to ethnic groups under the multicultural label. Canadians have "the perennial and perplexing question about Canadian identity". There is no one set of dances that define their identity at this point. What is usually labelled as Canadian has been "adapted from French, English, Irish, Scottish origins, the folk process means adopting and adapting. Anything that is transplanted must also be adapted to its new locale. 18th and 19th century settlers in Canada from the British Isles and France adapted old-country dances into distinctive Canadian ones in their new homes.

Have other settlers to Canada, besides those from Britain and France, adapted dances from the 'old' country?

Many of those settlers arrived in Canada many generations ago, and settled in concentrated geographic areas, such as Ukrainians in the Prairie Provinces. Did they develop a Ukrainian-Canadian style of folk dancing as distinct from 'traditional' Ukrainian dances displayed by their performance groups? Did they join other ethnic groups in developing hybrids when they got together to celebrate weddings and other special occasions?

In the early 1950s in Displaced Peoples camps in post-war Europe, the party dances in Polish-Canadian communities in Brantford were distinctly different from the dances in the camps. Could the Chicagostyle polka be a 'new' world adaptation that is distinctly North American? This very aerobic style of polka was obviously a social or recreational 'folk'dance as opposed to 'old' country Polish dances which were performed on stage on special occasions. These performance dances were already the more gentrified versions of village dances. To be of peasant background (as were most DPs) was something to be ashamed of rather than displayed as folklore.

It is a reminder that folk dance has a social-economic class as much as an ethno-geographic dimension. The question of how they represent Canada's rich demographic makeup at international folk dance festivals or on major occasions, such as Canada's upcoming 150th anniversary in 2017, will become increasingly complex. How does one balance depictions of European settlers with immigrants who increasingly come from Asia and other continents?



Balkanplus Romanian Workshops with Marius Ursu

I can now give full details of the first UK visit by Marius Ursu in October. Marius is recognised as a leading teacher of Romanian dance and he has taught widely in Europe. He will be assisted by his wife Maria and, in true Balkanplus fashion, he will participate fully in the Saturday evening party with other special guests assembled by the MCs Liz and Nick.

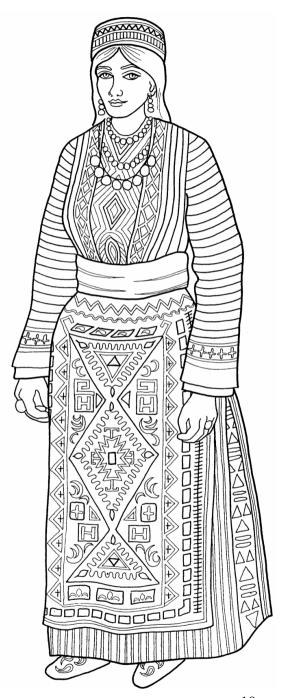
I make a special plea to book your place early because the workshops will take place in Trefusis, the lower hall at Cecil Sharp House, and so we have to limit the number attending. Now for the details.

The workshops are on Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th October 2013, 10.30am to 4.30pm and the Saturday evening party is between 7pm and 10.30pm - all at Cecil Sharp House 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY

Tickets: Workshops £25 (£20) each, both £40 (£35), Party £8 Both workshops + Party £45 (£40) Prices in brackets apply if booked by 31st July. There are further discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders.

To book, please send cheque payable to Balkanplus and SAE to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG Further information and flyer available for download on www.balkanplus.org.uk or telephone Brian on 01992 582717 or Maureen on 01473 272256

Brian Dowsett



Armenian

This costume is from Mush, in Armenia.

Colours

Hat: Two shades of wine.

Blouse: centre front green, yellow and rust (green predominating).

(green predominating).

Stripes: yellow and wine.

Trim: rust and white,
sleeve cuff - rust and
turquoise, turquoise
motif.

Sash: brown with
turquoise accent.

Apron: multi-colour, (wine predominating) Skirt: brown and

turquoise
Side panels: light and
dark blue.

Shoes: brown

This was a cover picture, sent in by Dalila Heath several years ago.

Banatfolk Romanian Dance Seminar

8-18 July 2013

Balkanplus has organised a weekend course with Marius Ursu from Romania in October. Marius is the choreographer for the students' ensemble in Timisoara and is very experienced at teaching non-Romanian folk dancers and has a large repertoire of "traditional" dances from all of Romania.

If you are interested in a summer visit to Romania, he teaches at the annual seminar in Timisoara, in the Municipal 'Culture House'. The program has dance teaching every morning and afternoon which generally includes a few sessions on the local dances, some sessions on the dances of southern Romanian and Moldavia (mainly circle dances) plus usually a couple of sessions taught by visiting teachers. In the evenings from Wednesday to Sunday there is the International Folk Festival 'Festivalul Inimlor' in the city park with local dance groups, dance groups from the neighbouring regions of Romania and a good selection of groups from outside Romania.

Dates: Monday evening, the 8th of July to Thursday, the 18th of July. Travel: Direct flights from Luton to Timisoara by Wizz Air) not included in seminar price).

Price: €700 (for dancing and music), €500, not on dance course but taking part in other activities.

The fee includes: Transport from Timisoara International Airport to the hotel. Timisoara - 8 days accommodation in double rooms (breakfast, lunch and dinner included) in 3*** hotel. €150 single supplement. Village of Prigor - 2 days with board and lodging in village homes. Prigor is situated in a rural mountain valley in the southern part of Banat.

See http://www.banatfolk.com/Engleza/Banat%20engleza.htm



Summer School Evening Dances

As one of the (unnecessary?) MCs at one of the evenings at the last two Summer Schools, I feel I have to reply - on behalf of the extremely hard-working MCs - to Marina's letter in the last issue, which I read with some disbelief. I couldn't credit that Marina could not see that the circumstances at Cathy Meunier's courses are entirely different to those at the Summer School.

Cathy has a core of regular attendees, some of whom have been going to her courses for many, many years, and so have quite a substantial shared repertoire. Moreover, Cathy's courses are all Balkan (with the exception of a couple of Armenian ones), so they are also very familiar with the idiom, whereas the Summer School attracts people from many classes that are not Balkan orientated, and a number from abroad - Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Italy, U.S.A, Canada and Japan - just in recent years.

It has become increasingly obvious that there is virtually no common repertoire. Believe it or not, there are actually people who prefer, or have only experienced, dancing in couples and sets, and who would not enjoy the sort of evening Marina suggests. Most partner dances don't "repeat ten times", so if the dance is not walked through, there is no way anyone unfamiliar with it can join in.

The MCs brief is to provide an evening that <u>everyone</u> can join in, not just a select few. We aim to provide as varied an evening as our respective repertoires allow, not too many dances from any one area, most dances quickly walked through - not "taught" - my concept of "teaching" is quite different.

Of course it's boring to walk through dances that you know well, but even the most casual onlooker couldn't help noticing just how many people needed the walk through, and probably wouldn't have joined in if it had not been provided. Many of our overseas visitors said how grateful they were to the MCs, as they didn't know any of the dances, and were only able to enjoy the evenings because the dances were walked through.

Being an MC is a difficult and thankless job. Constructive criticism is always welcome, but some people seem to think the dance should be run entirely for their own benefit.

We realise only too well that it's impossible to please all of the people all of the time, and have taken the option of pleasing all of the people some of the time, rather than pleasing a select few all of the time.

Maggie O'Regan



Date For Your 2014 Dancing Diary

Our first-ever Winter Folk Dance Seminar "RIVIERADANCE!" was very much enjoyed both by participants and by the teachers. So we are planning to make this an annual event at the Livermead Hotel, Torquay.

The dates for next year will be: Thursday 6th – Tuesday 11th February with Kyriakos Moisidis (inspirational teacher of authentic Greek dance), Vincent Parodi (much loved Israeli dance teacher whose diary is always fully booked) and our wonderfully talented musicians Mike and Clyde.

Don't miss it! More information to follow.

Cathy Meunier



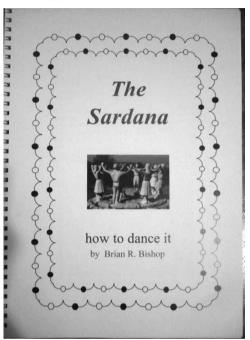
This Space could be yours

Since changing the format of the News to A5 booklet a new problem has arisen. The pages must be in multiples of 4. As a consequence some months I need to fill one, two or even three pages, or condense everything if there is only a little over the limit. This month you have a photo (Polish) and a colouring-in page (Armenian), plus this space. Last month you had mud!

Please send anything that can be part of a stock of emergency fillers: photos, drawings etc. **Ed.**

New book! - 'The Sardana: how to dance it'

As mentioned last month, the Society has just published a book by Brian Bishop, in English, on the Catalan dance, the Sardana, entitled 'The Sardana: how to dance it'.



The book covers the background of this beautiful dance, its music, etiquette and rules, as well as providing copious instructions and illustrations on how it is danced. Three methods are included to help with working out the distribution of step sequences for any Sardana music, to ensure the dance is always ended in the correct way. Many recommended web site references are added to enhance the value of the book. Altogether it is a most comprehensive exploration of the dance.

A copy costs just £10, plus £1 (U.K.) or £3.30 (Europe) or £4.50 (rest of the world) towards post and packing.

If ordering more than one book, please email in advance for postage costs. Order by post from SIFD, 5 South Rise, Carshalton, Surrey, SM5 4PD, UK.

Or by email from alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

Do not forget to give your postal address!

UK cheques should be made payable to SIFD.

Overseas buyers can use PayPal, paying alison.scrimshaw@googlemail.com

All profits go to the Society; I do hope you'll be tempted to buy it.

Alison Scrimshaw



Lena (from the Bognor group) wearing her Polish costume. Her family are from Poland and her grandmother made the costume.

Balkan Day Of Dance

On Saturday 23 March Jackie Charbit-Middleton, qualified and experienced folk dance teacher specializing in Eastern European dances, will be teaching line and circle dances at Church House (St. Mary's) Hall, South Street, Bridport DT6 3NW.

The day culminates in a social dance with live music provided by local band Mythos.

10.30-11.30 Workshop (beginners)

11.45-12.45 Workshop (beginners and intermediate)

12.45-13.30 Bring and share lunch

13.30-15.00 Workshop (intermediate)

15.00-15.30 Tea and cake

15.30-17.30 Social dance

Cost £12 for the day. Tel: 01308 423 442

Mecki Testroet



Dear Janet,

How uplifting to read, in the middle of dreary January, your story. I laughed a lot, especially about the dog looking the other way (didn't want to know you obviously) and about Father Christmas's 'Ho! Ho! Ho!'.

Let's have more stories – I'm sure many members will have some to share and perhaps some of our artistic dancers could provide cartoons. Kindest regards,

Joan Guest



Balkanplus

The March Balkanplus will be held on the 9th March 2013 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs for the evening will be the Ipswich Group. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

Kalamatianos (Evangelio)



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Kalamatianos

Some further information concerning this dance (see last month's News). Like Lily, I had always believed that the dance was named for the town of Kalamata, but when I attended a course at the Dora Stratou theatre in Athens, our teacher told us that this was a misconception - if that was so, it would be called Kalamatikos - and that the name referred to a type of embroidery.

Live and learn!

Hords tou Zalongou, and Gerakina

This manuscript was also under the heading Kalamatianos.



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



I am intrigued by the piece entitled **Calamityanos** and so have designated it as next month's offering and would like to hear more about it.

There is a finite amount of music available to us from Wilf's collection; and there are musicians out there who can surely contribute some of their own transcriptions or even compositions. So, please consider sending in notes for music that would be of interest. I was thinking in particular of the newer dances in our repertoire that have arrived after Wilf's time. **Ed.**

SIFD Committee

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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 MARCH

S.I Mar.2nd 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

Mar.9th BALKANPLUS see page 16

- 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 BALKAN DAY COURSE WITH MAGGIE O'REGAN 10.30-4.30 Witnesham Village Hall, IP6 9JD near Ipswich. £10. Contact Sally Fletcher, fletchersm@aol.com, 01473 252824.
- 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 on 01323 502962 or silviamcintyre@hotmail.com.
 - Mar.23rd BALKAN DAY OF DANCE *change of teachers and musicians* see page 16
- S.I Mar.24th 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) on Sunday, March 24th 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



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