

SIFD NEWS

MAY 2013



ADY

india

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010 email: *SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk*

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

Sadly the announcements of the death of Doug Wells and John Baldwin are on page 13, also Makis Galatis - page 9.

≈

The front cover is a copy from the January 1966 SIFD News. Thanks to all who have sent photos for 'fillers' for the News - I now have a good varied stock (the latest is on the centre pages).

Ed.



Summer School News

Unfortunately we will not be able to hold the SIFD Summer School in 2014 at Swansea, as the University administrators have been unable to provide a guarantee of suitable dance rooms for any appropriate dates. Dorien Bates has been negotiating for 7 months and the result has been very unsatisfactory. We have looked into other venues for 2014 but have not been able to find anywhere that is available, at reasonable cost, with the right facilities for our event.

Dorien has booked 8-15 August in 2015 when the rooms we used in 2012 (2 large and 1 small) are available for our use. They are not available for the usual week.

The present team are willing to run this event but it will definitely be our last Summer School. We would be very pleased if other people would join us with a view to taking on future events. We are delighted that Naomi Ryder has already joined our committee and look forward to working with her.

Sorry to disappoint you but let's hope we have a wonderful time in 2015!

Jill Bransby
(Publicity Officer)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 **Jun.1 BALKAN DAY COURSE & PARTY** with Marion Nieuwenhuizen 13.30 - 21.30 at Calver Village Hall, Main Street, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR. Cost £12. Details/information from Greg Boyd or Janet King on 07810181273 or 0162957065 respectively or greg.boyd99@aol.com or j.king194@btinternet.com

Jun.8 ROMANIAN & GREEK DAY with Paul Boizot, 11.00 - 4.45 Sheffield (Ecclesall Rd. area). Dances mainly from Summer Schools 2004 (Dimitris Triandafyllidis) & 2006 (Silviu Ciucumis). Cost £16 - £24, concs. £12. Early booking discount of £2 if booked by May 16. Details, <http://www.paulboizot.co.uk/events.htm>. and list of possible dances, at Contact info@paulboizot.co.uk, 01904 621510.

S.I **Jun.8 BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be the Joan Sach and Dany Baker

Jun.15 PORTUGUESE AFTERNOON (Wollaton) see page 12

S.I **Jun.15 SIFD SATURDAY EVENING DANCE** (3rd Saturday) in Trefusis, see page 17

S.I **Jun.15 SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** Cecil Sharp House.

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.7 LOIDIS IFDG's 30th ANNIVERSARY** see page 12

S.I **Sep.8 SIFD AGM**

- S.I **Sep.20-22 RESIDENTIAL COURSE OF ALBANIAN FOLK** dance, Genc Kastrati & Helga Saraci & "a capella" singing & music making with Mike, Clyde, Marion and Maya. DB&B, Bournemouth. Cost £175 (dancers) £155 (musicians & singers). Discount for non-dancing friends and family. send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church St. Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or cathy_meunier@hotmail.com
- S.I **Sep.29 VINTAGE ISRAELI WITH FIONA HOWARTH** at Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis PO22 0AX info: Janet Douglas 01243 265010 or www.interfolk.co.uk
- Oct.12 DAY COURSE WITH HELEN EZRA** (Wollaton) see p.12
- S.I **Oct.26-27 BALKANPLUS ROMANIAN WEEKEND** Workshop with Marius Ursu at Cecil Sharp House. Full weekend £45 (£40), single workshop £25 (£20), Both workshops £40 (£35), Saturday evening party £8. Discounts in brackets if booked by 31st July. Further discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders. For tickets, please send a cheque payable to Balkanplus and SAE to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. For more information phone Maureen 01473 272256 or Brian 01992 582717.



*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

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 11th May 2013 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC for the evening will be Mad & John. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

International Folk Music

We go frequently to the weekly meetings of our Stevenage University of the Third Age (U3A) in two venues. One holds about 60 people the other is a much smaller one but has a more intimate atmosphere. Organisers have difficulty providing a variety of interesting subjects and have to fall back on quiz shows or readings from favourite authors. To help out I proposed to the organiser of the smaller venue that I would present an afternoon of international folk music and the offer was gratefully accepted. International Folk music has an inexhaustible treasure trove of music of great richness, diversity and fascination. SIFD members get much joy and interest not only from the intrinsic nature of the dances they do but also from the supporting music. I wanted to pass some of this pleasure onto our U3A members.

Having committed myself the problems and difficulties began to loom ahead. For one thing I am not a musician and could not explain the music but imagined I would side step the problem. Another problem was my woeful lack of suitable technical equipment and technical expertise. The equipment for copying from LPS had broken down and had not been repaired or replaced. I had no means of recording onto CDs rather than cassette tapes. Most of my recordings were on tapes and to state the obvious it is very much easier to prepare and present on CDS rather than cassette tapes. My resources were unevenly balanced. For some areas I had good coverage and for large areas of the globe very little and for a complete continent nothing. That was Australia. Fortunately a gentleman in our U3A had spent many years down under and could lend me copies of didgeridoo music and of Waltzing Matilda. What could be more representative of Australia? I finished the listing of the above problems by thinking I had better prepare the programme.

I had a plan. The music would not be all dance music and it would not be just sweet and pretty to please an elderly audience. Each piece of music had to be based on its place. Obviously flamenco guitar music would be Spain. There would be a spread of music from all over the globe.

The job took hours and hours and hours, hundreds of hours of concentrated listening and sometimes repeated listening. There were of course recordings that had been poorly performed or recorded, or were tedious, and some came into the category we all know: “What on earth made me buy that record?”. But these were few. It was not hard labour. It was often a great pleasure to meet music I had not heard for many, many years. Then came the task of organising the selected tracks into a playing order while holding about ten in reserve. The playing order switched from continent to continent e.g. Europe to South America to Russia, to Africa to Europe.

At the start I told the audience we were going all over the globe and they might find some of the items somewhat weird. To keep their interest I introduced a simple quiz. I would not tell them anything about the music beforehand and when the track had been played I would invite them to guess the country of origin.

About halfway through the programme I played a Swiss Yodelling record and diverged from the main programme for a few minutes. I said the folk world is about ordinary folk taking part. Cannot dance? Of course you can. Cannot sing? Of course you can. I told them I could not sing or yodel but I would show them what to do. I sang a simple folk phrase, added a yodelling ornamentation and repeated it. Then said we will do all that together. They were good sports and joined in. The result was a hilarious hullabaloo followed by uproarious laughter.

I was anxious about the reception because it may have been out of the comfort zone of some. So how did it go? It was a huge success. Many came up to me to say how very enjoyable it had all been and they liked the idea of the Audience brought in to participate.

Many SIFD members may well have done something similar in their local and others may wish to do the same. Best of luck.

Henry Lee



Rivieradance! 2014

Thursday 6th – Tuesday 11th February in Torquay

It is now possible to book for this event which is our second winter folk-dance holiday at the Livermead hotel in Torquay.



The dance teachers will be:

Vincent Parodi

Israeli

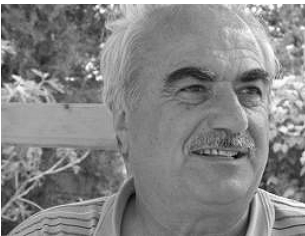
Kyriakos Moisidis

Greek



Belco Stanev

Bulgarian



There will also be opportunities for walking, sight-seeing, singing and music-making. We will be staying in a lovely hotel, with high standards of service and cuisine and an award-winning chef, in a great location overlooking the sea on the south-west coast.

For full details and a booking form, please either contact me by email (cathy_meunier@hotmail.com) or send a S.A.E. to me at 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX.

Cathy Meunier

A Footnote for the Galatis & Striegels

Just to let you know that Makis Galatis has recently joined his lovely wife Lillian! - for those who remember the Halcyon days when she led an enthusiastic group of Greek Dancers. etc. As older ones may remember Lillian Galatis, succumbed to cancer 20 years ago and there were several special events (e.g. Natassa Lemos' Day), fund raising for dedicating 3 areas of woodland in her memory. Just a few weeks ago, Makis, her loving, self effacing, gentle soulmate passed away. This reminded me of those joyful dancing days, when Lillian led this enthusiastic group of Greek Dancers and some of the many highlights e.g. Lillian leading us onto a dark stage, dancing to our own un-accompanied singing, bearing candles for Ai Thodoros at an early Eastbourne Festival. Another set the scene for a special Ancient Greece celebration at the British Museum. Then dancing in and around the town, on the Bandstand, in the Theatre and Trelissic Gardens, for the Truro Festival, or livening up a weekend event at Tatton Park etc. It also reminded me of the little booklet of music and dance notes she printed shortly before her death. I still have copies, so if anyone is interested I should be delighted to pass them on - particularly if there could be a small donation to 'Lillian's Woods' which I shall shortly be adding to, for including Makis in a further dedication.

While we are thinking of past lively members who made a difference, perhaps I could bring a smile mentioning the 60th DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY of Heinz & Ilse Striegel's wedding. As well as leading Austrian workshops all over the place they took a party of us walking and dancing in the Mountains and along the Lakes of their beautiful homeland soon after they were married. With his little 'squeezebox' adding to our dancing exploits Mourrie Pfeffer and Nora came too. Quite a few of us added a genuine Austrian costume to our collection, which was helpful, as shortly after our return, an Austrian item featured at the Royal Albert Hall Show, led by Zepperl on accordion and Hans yodelling as he led the dancers on. Later when their family had grown up, they left for Switzerland, where they still reside at Winterthur. As I write this, they will all be enjoying a splendid celebration, which I so wish I could have joined.

Diki Gleeson

(skg@skdiki.freemove.co.uk – 0208 363 1506 - for booklet.)

Nutbrook IFDG Future Events

May 9th club night 8 p.m – 10 p.m. Informal visit from Corry Verheijen Mixed night with 2 M.C.s

June 15th Saturday - Portuguese afternoon Grangewood Church 1p.m. to 5 p.m. Dancing sessions 1.30 – 3.00 and 3.30 – 5.00

Refreshments available

Teacher Janet Woolbar. Musician Ben Hooke. Tickets £6.

12th October - Day course led by Helen Ezra

Dances from the new CD 10 with some dances from the older CDs.

Grangewood Church, Wollaton Notts. Hall open 10.00 closes 5 p.m. dancing 10.30 – 1.00 2.00. to 4.30

Tickets £8.00 all day, one session £5.00

Gill Morral



LOIDIS' 30th Anniversary Workshop and Party

September 7th, Loidis IFDG 30th Anniversary Celebrations with Marina Wolstenholme teaching a selection of dances from 2.15 pm until 5.15 pm, followed by a party from 6.00 pm until 9.30 pm with a break for a Bring-and-Share Supper.

Advance tickets cost £8 for the workshop only, £5 for the party only, and £12 for combined workshop and party, and will be available from June, by application to:

Ian Willson, 8 Dorset Crescent, Harrogate, HG1 2IU

Cheques payable to 'Loidis IFDG'.

Tickets will be held at the door, or please include SAE if they need to be received in advance.

Further details from ianrwillson@tiscali.co.uk or 01423 505006.



Douglas Wells

My father Douglas Wells who was a member of the SIFD for many years died on the 14th March 2013. My mother asked me to write something that could go in the SIFD News.

My father began dancing as a teenager in the 50's, and that was where he met my mother. I have many memories of my childhood dancing in various halls, some with floors that bounced alarmingly due to rotten joists, and in summer outdoors in fields where you had to be nimble to stay upright. My Dad took the dancing seriously, but for him it was always a very social event. During the 70's and 80's, he and my Mum took on the printing of the SIFD News. Dad printed the sheets on a Roneo machine, and the piles were laid out on a trestle table for collating. Acquiring an electric stapler improved things no end. My Mum was in charge of posting them, checking the local post boxes regularly to see if there was room to post more. As my Dad's hearing faded, they stepped back from dancing but stayed interested. [He took up ice skating instead, using his footwork.] He died in March from lung cancer caused by asbestos. Too soon, but after a life lived with enthusiasm.

Debbie Wells

•••

John Baldwin

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Dr John Baldwin, co-founder with Henry Morris of Dunav Balkan Group, after a long illness. John's interest in Balkan music blossomed when he danced with the then fledgling Bulgarian dance group in London. His virtuosity on the tambura, tamburitsa and bouzouki has earned the respect of many native Balkan musicians and Dunav will miss John's presence when the group celebrates its fiftieth birthday in 2014. Our sympathy goes to John's sons Oliver and Adam.

Brian Dowsett



SIMD

Do we wish to become ‘The Society of International Messy Dancing’? Having (in the same article in SIFD news) just read Marina saying “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 is not working, then change it.” why does she then demonstrate the opposite attitude when discussing teaching at social evenings? “Julie and I made a rule at the start – No teaching in a social dance.” Well clearly it is not working so let’s change it.

At Swansea 2012 the dancers were expected to do ‘Serbian Suite’ - one of my favourite dances. ‘Great’ I thought “I can throw myself into this no problems”. Dances 1 and 2 perfect - but come dance 3 one half of the circle went flying off in one direction and the other half in the other direction with some individuals caught up in one half or the other expecting something other. One of my arms was pulled right and the other left. I have since found out that there are two versions of this dance. It would have been nice to have been told prior to the dance which one was going to be done and 50% of us would have needed some instruction. During the dance Kleismer (forgive me if I’m wrong) I believe that part of the 'B' section steps out and in at right angles to the anti clockwise movement. At this moment (in Torquay) we had both hands on both shoulders. However, many people continued to move forward at this point. The result - the circle snapped and a pile up happened elsewhere behind.

Many years ago a famous invited teacher (who will remain anonymous) sat looking on during a social dance. Both of us could see the expression on each other’s faces and he said “Why they dance like that? It so futile - so messy and ugly. How are they preserving the style of the dance when not even their feet are doing the same thing. Why?”

With attendance at groups falling, it was sad to see some new young dancers looking alienated and left out of things at Torquay. “If we join in we will mess it up for them” they said. “Just push your way in” I said “because it’s messy anyway. It’s not your fault that it’s not been taught to new comers and old comers who do not know the dance”.

With many local groups focusing on the latest Yves Moreau (etc etc) dances, teachers and dancers can easily forget that there are dancers at these social events who have never done Ba pardess, Hora Hadera or Karamfil. A lady came at me clockwise during Tsadik Katamar. It is clear from this that there is no common repertoire.

“We know it from the 70s, so tough” just will not do.

And finally, what about the purpose of the dance? - its aesthetics, or even (dare I say it) its spiritual quality. When there is such a tatty mess how can the dance be expected to work though us and move us with its magic or aesthetic ideal. Music is just notes or sounds until an interpreter turns it into moving music. Likewise, a dance is just a load of steps until its inner aesthetic is allowed to manifest and be experienced -

“We have to get though 30 dances tonight” = Head stuff.

“Tonight we are going to dance 20 dances beautifully” = Heart stuff.

What is the point of having teachers come from all over the world to teach us style (Hands must be palm out level with the ears and the foot no more than an inch off the floor, etc) if a year or so later all we have is a chaotic mess? - Respect the dance. Let its magic work through your heart. Teach the blooming things.

Christopher D. Yemm



Intensive Russian Dance

2-day workshop with Hennie Konings 29th & 30th June 2013
at ISTD2, 346 Old Street, London EC1V 9NQ

Dancing both days from 10.30am to about 5pm. Cost £110

This workshop is an opportunity for experienced dancers with a special interest in exploring Russian dance in more depth to work intensively on style and detail.

Numbers will be strictly limited so early booking is advisable.

There are a limited number of bursaries available on request, contact Mary Lou marylou.leavitt@phonecoop.coop All other enquiries and bookings to: Janet Wilks 020 7229 9387 janetwilks@tiscali.co.uk

Easter in Bulgaria Tour 2014

With Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov
13th to 26th April 2014 (14 days)

Discover the folklore and scenic splendour of Northern Bulgaria on a tour conceived by Iliana principally for her British friends.

- **In a nutshell**
- A Thracian welcome by Iliana's Voivodinstsi ensemble near Plovdiv before travelling to Northern Bulgaria by coach.
- Meet two professional and four authentic ensembles.
- Enjoy dance and song workshops with Iliana and Todor.
- Visit places of natural beauty and cultural interest.
- Stay at 3 and 4 star hotels serving the finest food.

Prices £975 double room, £1,040 single room

Air fares are not included but Balkania Travel will offer a London to Sofia return flight deal when prices become known in the summer of 2013. The price does include all meals (except drinks) and Iliana will provide a CD of the music for all the dances taught and a T-shirt for the tour. We hope to produce a DVD of the tour too.

The tour will be limited to 50 people. Balkanplus has kindly allowed a link from their website to view and download full details and booking forms:

www.balkanplus.org.uk/News Contact: Brian Dowsett
bvdowsett@aol.com 75 Fordwich Rise, Hertford, Herts. SG14 2BW
Telephone 01992 582717

The last word from our hosts:

“We'd love to show you the beauty of our country and the diversity of the Bulgarian People and their culture. Let us enjoy a traditional Easter together in North Bulgaria! Sincerely yours Iliana and Todor”



Dear Janet,

I really hope that everybody who went to the afternoon course this Sunday (14th April) at Cecil Sharp House enjoyed it as much as I did!

I had danced all the dances at least once at Balkanplus, and some in many other occasions, and yet I learnt so much on Sunday...

Frank Dowling's gentle way of teaching, going back to basic steps, gradually introducing more complex steps whilst showing the style of each dance, and giving some details of the origin of the dances, was not only very interesting, but also very enjoyable.

A great Sunday afternoon! Thank you, SIFD!

Yours sincerely,

Dany Baker



SIFD Evening Dances

The monthly dance at Cecil Sharp will be on Saturday 18th May 7-10pm. The evening will be led by the SIFD Band so it should be an evening of very enjoyable live music.

The dance in June will be on Saturday 15th June and will be a selection of favourite dances. If there is a dance you would like included please let one of the committee know.

Anne Maddocks



Balkan Workshop with Bianca de Jong

Although it's far ahead we would like to reassure those who were disappointed when Bianca had to cancel this year due to an injury.

April 5th/6th 2014 - Bianca de Jong runs a Balkan Workshop in Manchester/Calver, details from Julie Korth: Holly Cottage, off Wigan Rd, Aspull nr Wigan WN2 1EF or Mary O at maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk

Mary o'Mahony

Olender

A Andantino Intro (Last 4 bars of A) Polish

7 G D7 G

13 D7 G D7 G

D7 G

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

The dance **Olender** is from Kurpie, a region in north-east Poland. But the melody is one of those tunes that has wandered around Europe. Gastourikos, the dance from Gastouri on the Greek Island of Corfu, uses the same melody, but of course in a very different style. The first and second melodies are transposed, and Gastourikos adds a third, all three played at the same speed, while Olender starts slow and ends fast. I believe the melody is also claimed by Germany. But how it came to travel around is beyond me -- perhaps someone out there knows?

Caroline Thomas



In response to your call for information about Olender: I had a quick look on Youtube, but only found a still photo of a couple dancing, with a brisk tune playing. It is entitled: Trad. taniec kurpiowski

Jeanette Hull



An Israeli dance is featured next month - **Debka La'Adama** - please enlighten us about it if you have knowledge of this dance. **Ed.**

SIFD Committee

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

Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane,
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.
judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: Jeanette Hull 39 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4
4HJ 07722 655481 *jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk*

**Membership
Secretary:** Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park,
Hatfield. AL9 7AQ *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*
tel: 01707 642774

Other Committee Members:

Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340 4683
caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk

Mary O'Mahony 11 Hartington Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 8UZ
01618 810955 *maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk*

Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN
richard@mellish.eu 0208 863 7807

John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67 8NU
j2ohn@yahoo.co 01530 223957

Holly Payling 3B Carlton Road, Harpenden, Herts. AL5 4SX
hollycp@hotmail.co.uk 07784 117599

Naomi Ryder Flat 4, 39 Clarendon Road, Whalley Range, Manchester
M16 8 LB *naomiryder@hotmail.co.uk* 07920 424575

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 MAY

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

May.9. NUTBROOK CLUB NIGHT: Corry Verheijen, see page 12

S.I **May.18 SIFD DANCE** (3rd Saturday) Trefusis, see page 17

May.25 MACLENNAN GROUP 32nd I. F. DANCE FESTIVAL
7.30-11pm Folk Dance & Ceilidh £7.50; (£6); Child £3. 2 - 5.30pm
Folk Dance Concert £7.50; (£6 & £3) The Priory School, Tintagel
Road, Orpington, BR5 4LG website: www.msg.org.uk

May.26 MACLENNAN GROUP 32nd I. F. DANCE FESTIVAL
2 -5.30pm Folk Dance Concert £7.50; (£6 & £3) The Priory School,
Tintagel Road, Orpington, BR5 4LG enquiries@msg.org.uk



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