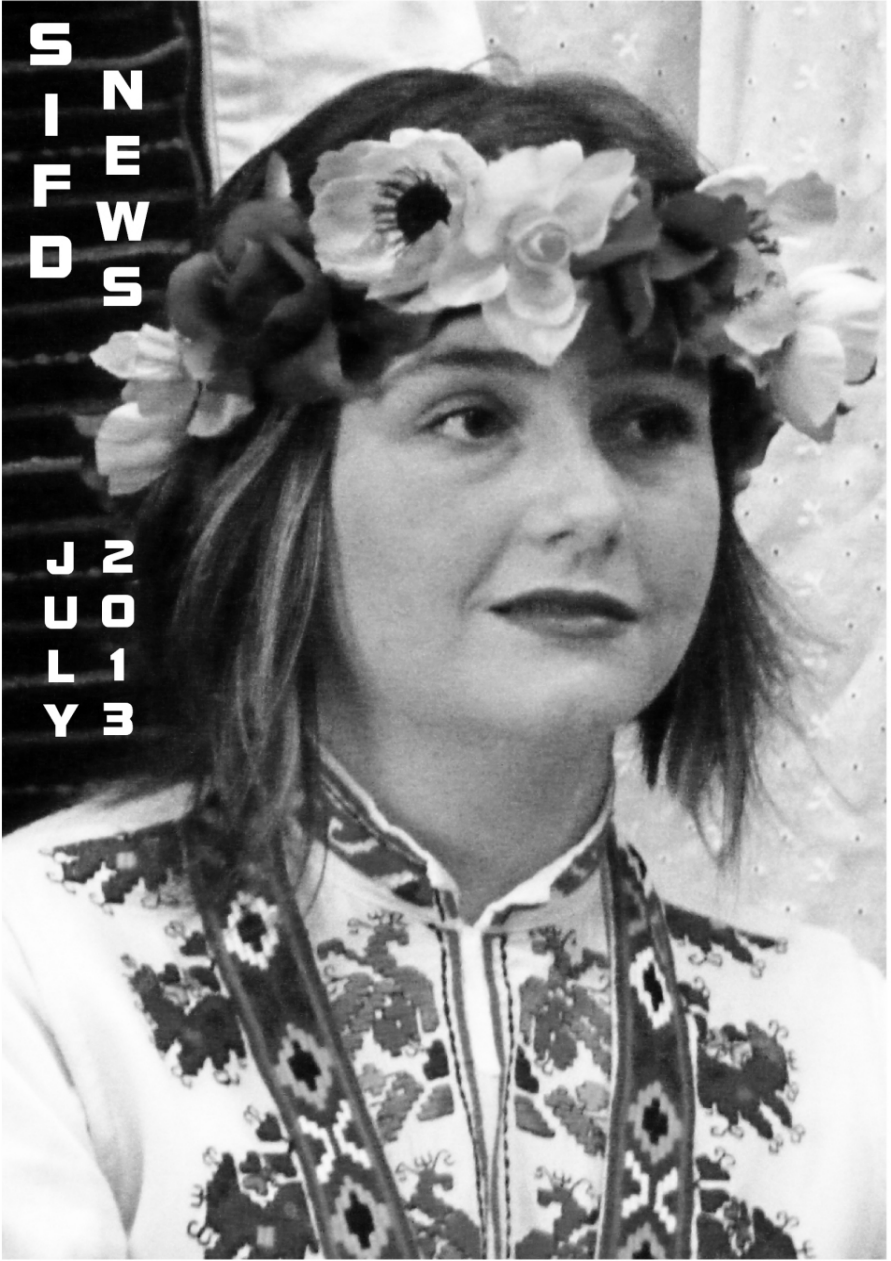


S - NEWS

JULY 3



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.

Simon Guest designed this month's cover - a picture of SIFD Committee member Naomi Ryder taken at last year's Summer School. July 9th to 14th) is the Llangollen International Eisteddfod - and below - a motif of Indian dancers who often perform there.

Ed.



Membership Renewal

Where appropriate, membership renewal forms have been included with this issue of the News. For your convenience, they have been filled in so all you need to do is check the information and pay your subscription in a method convenient to you. Note you do not have to return the form if the information contained therein is correct.

Overseas members may, if they wish, pay by credit card via PayPal, although sterling cheques are preferred. PayPal accounts are identified by the account holder's email address and the Society's account is mail@SIFD.org. Details of the PayPal system can be found at www.paypal.com

Overseas members normally receive their copies of the SIFD News via surface mail, but airmail despatch outside Europe can be arranged on request. Please add the extra postage cost of £12 to your subscription if airmail is required. Better still you can subscribe to receive your News via email.

Your membership cards will be sent out with the next issue of the News.

Dalila Heath, Membership Secretary

dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com -
01707 642774 (H) – 020 7782 0007 (W)



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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** Workshop and Party will take place at the MASSC Hall in Leeds from 2.15 until 9.30.
- S.I **Sep.8 SIFD AGM - WORKSHOP - EVENING DANCE** Cecil Sharp House.
- S.I **Sep.14 BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Jane Goode (from the Hursley Group)
- 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. Comfortable ensuite hotel accommodation. DB&B, Bournemouth. Live music, social dancing, singing work-shops. Cost £175 (dancers) £135 (musicians & singers). Discount for non-dancing friends and family. s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com
- S.I **Sep.21 SINGERS & MUSICIANS DAYSCHOOL** & Social Dance in Bournemouth. See page 9
- Sep.24 WORLD DANCE - EASTERN EUROPE & BEYOND**, 10-week W.E.A. course, tutor Paul Boizot. Folk dances - circle and line. Beginners welcome. 7 - 9 p.m., Scarcroft School, York, YO23 1BS. £61, or free on means-tested benefits. 01904 621510, www.paulboizot.co.uk/events.htm.
- S.I **Sep.29 VINTAGE ISRAELI WITH FIONA HOWARTH** 10.30 - 4.30 at Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis PO22 0AX cost: £14 (£12 SIFD members) tea, coffee etc. included. info: Janet Douglas 01243 265010 or www.interfolk.co.uk

Oct.11-13 GREEK FOLK DANCE COURSE South Cotswolds. Christiana Katsarou will teach dances from the Greek Islands. Cost £100 (excludes accommodation). For full details and a booking form, please send a SAE to Hazel Young, Field View, Downend, Horsley, Gloucestershire GL6 0PQ or email : hazel@hazelyoung.co.uk (Tel no. 01453 834 125)

S.I **Oct.12 DAY COURSE LED BY HELEN EZRA** Dances from the new CD 10 with some dances from the older CDs. Grangewood Church, Wollaton Notts. 10.00 - 5 p.m. dancing 10.30–1. & 2-4.30 Tickets £8.00 all day one session £5.00

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 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.

Nov.2-3 DANCE AROUND THE WORLD at Cecil Sharp House.

Nov.23 DANCE IN DERBYSHIRE Day of dance with Cathy Meunier in Calver. Put this date in your diaries. More information soon.



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.

S.I **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 .

Letter from Sybil

Hi everyone -

Some of you may remember me, many will not know me, and for them I'll simply say that I was the founder member and teacher of the West Midlands branch of our S.I.F.D. from 1973. For years (since 1967) I studied Hungarian dance, and the only way to do that is 'over there'!

I'm probably treading on many toes, but I feel so strongly that Marina has a good point, on one hand, and others a point on the other hand. The problem is - which comes first - correctness or 'fun'. Well, bearing in mind that in International Folk Dance we are attempting to emulate the dance culture of other nations and that I always understood the Society's principal was to maintain / attain authenticity as far as possible, that to show that true authenticity brings its own "fun".

For many years I ran 3 groups: 13-16yrs; pre-university; and adult groups. We more or less had an attitude of 'nearly' and 'almost' and 'not quite' = FORGET IT!

There was the possibility of foreign students, learning English in the schools where I worked, passing our hall and hearing a familiar dance melody could come and have a look. But what if their immediate thought was "Oh - I know that" then on opening the door their next thought might be "Oh dear - what have they done to it?"

Folk dances don't only have Nationalities but also 'Dialects'. Dialects are many, for example in Hungary - as in England. If I were asked (and it has happened) to sing a regional song - I would sing it in broad GEORDIE!!! They may not understand it, but the 'nuance' would be clear - and far more fun than flattening it out into 'basic' English.

So with dance. Danced as nearly as possible to the dance form of the area we are attempting to emulate speaks for itself. No one could misplace Simon's Bourrée or Cathy's Armenian dance, or bless her, Betty Harvey's Mazurka, or Hedy Fromings' Czech or Slovak dances. They have a language all their own but sometimes 'shyness' or whatever takes over in England, and the result can be disastrous - even, I may say discourteous or at worst demeaning.

We danced everywhere - from Broadway village green to Synagogues, and audiences realised what fun we were having but also, in the case of foreign guests., they recognised the dances, and their authenticity. Dance is a language - you wouldn't expect to learn good Italian language from a heavily accented German, for example. Dancing to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of the State of Israel in the new Synagogue in Birmingham was a lesson to all of us - and, I suspect, the chief Rabbi. They recognised the dances and they knew the tunes!!!

The pre-university group also visited the same Synagogue at least once every term of their last two years with us at Yardley School. A most memorable occasion was one at which we gave a programme covering all the countries from which our audience - about 200 of them - had come. In the interval they had a chance to talk to the dancers - some of the audience trying out the young folk in their Polish / Hungarian / Russian tongues - to the confusion of the dancers but also surely, a measure of their belief in what we were doing. On this occasion, I included a small 'folkloric' dance to a well known song - 'Jerusalem the Golden' - it was really a respite for the group by way of a circle, couple, foursome, circle sequence. Suddenly - the great hall resounded with the audience's voices - they ALL STARTED TO SING THE SONG - the teenagers danced on, trying to hide their tears!! (boys as well as girls).

Authenticity - you can't beat it. On a skiing holiday with young men and women who had gone on to university - one of the boys informed me that the D.J. had a recording of 'Sugar Sugar' (Heaven help us) and 'Kapuvari Csárdás' fitted perfectly, so the boys insisted on doing a floor show. They had to repeat it, at the demand from a group of Germans!! And Hungarians!!! They had been left school for 12 months!

The more you know, the harder you try and throw yourself into it, the better you become - a simple sum = more enjoyment, so enter into the spirit of the dance - immerse yourself in its music, phrasing, language and the ENJOYMENT HAPPENS.

continued overleaf >

Try and follow (in social dancing) an obviously competent dancer. Check the list on the programme and decide which dances you can easily join in with or in which you can give someone else help or encouragement but don't treat all 'Social Dances' as specific lessons.

I had to take all the ex-male dancers of Yardley into the gents' cloakroom to 'revise' their dances partially forgotten away at University but easily recollected for the 21st birthday dance of one of them - even though somewhat bucolic!!

Happy Dancing,

Sybil Chapman



Balkanplus

The July Balkanplus will be held on the 13th July at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs for the evening will be Oxford Balkansko Oro. Admission £5.

NOTE: There will be **no Balkanplus** in August

Maureen Felton



La Ardama

I have made a mistake with the notes for La Ardama (last issue).

B) should read: Twds Centre (face R) L. CL.R X4.
Everything else is O.K.

Sue Clark





Would You Like to Learn to Sing or Play Music for Balkan & Israeli Folk Dancing?

How about trying our singers' and musicians' "dayschool" with our talented "Music team" (Mike, Clyde, Marion and Maya)? We previously advertised a residential music weekend running alongside a weekend of traditional Albanian folk dancing. We haven't had much take up for this, but we are sure that if you give it a try you will love it! It is something that you will always be able to enjoy - even if a time comes when the legs won't dance for you anymore!

So we would like to offer a one-day course on Saturday 21st September at the Wessex hotel, Bournemouth where you can learn either to play music and/or sing "a capella" for Balkan & Israeli folk dancing. If you are able to stay for the evening social dance you will have opportunities to play or sing for the dancing, or you can just enjoy the evening with us. No previous experience is necessary. Marion has drums for you to practice on and Maya can even supply you with a clarinet to try. Sheet music and parts for transposing instruments, and song words and MP3 files of all song parts will be made available in advance.

The cost of the day course and evening dance is £20. A residential option is also possible and we have reduced the price to £135 for this. For full details and a booking form contact Cathy Meunier email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com tel 017687 73117 or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX.

Cathy Meunier



PIFD Costumes on Offer

(re Sue's letter in June News)



These costumes are from **Bormio**, northern Italy on the border with Austria. My costume (extreme right) is original and made for me in the village. The pinafore is in heavy black satinised cotton with a red band at the base. Children have additional red bands as they grow. Also, allowing for growth of a different sort, the bodice is laced with red cord. The white cotton blouse has “washer women” sleeves to just below the elbow and not puffed like the SIFD copy. The apron and matching head scarf are in cotton. The scarf is tied behind the head and should cover all hair. Socks are red wool with concentric rings of black. The rings start just below the knee and stop at the ankle. Aprons are in various colours and the material was bought in Bormio. Of special interest is that “**La Danza**” comes from this town.

Czech Costumes

The pattern for the costume was given to me by Hedy Fromings and she guided me through. The skirts were very heavy with a hem width of 15 ft (5yds) and the same amount gathered into the waist. Our choice of colour was dark green. Three bands of braid are at the base

of the costume. Net curtains were made into petticoats (lots of them) and the aprons are of white embroidery anglaise with lace at the base. Hedy felt we had too much variety in the lace we used. Red velvet bodices were laced at the back. The white cotton blouse has puffed sleeves just below the elbow and the neckline has a stiff frilled collar. The costume is completed with a snug cotton bonnet which is embroidered with (in our case) sequins in squurlerly (*sic*) patterns (not geometric). A white starched bow is fixed to the rear of the bonnet. The bonnet is not tied.



Israeli costume

The design came from a picture post card sent to me by Judith and Jacob Barkhan. The card showed a group of dancers dancing Erev Ba and showed the back, front and sides of the costume and also the swirl of the fabric. Unfortunately our group could not afford cotton so we settled on a synthetic material. Our costumes are in red or green and a couple of brown ones. The braid was hand woven here in Pembroke-shire. The braid is fixed at the shoulder and is held by the belt at waist level. The braid reaches to the hem of the dress. A matching narrower version is on the sleeves. Our group wore Tservuli shoes because that is what we had! (*Israeli costumes pictured on back page*)

Sue Clark PIFD

Dancing on Salt Spring Island BC

I first met Rosemarie Keough on Yves Moreau's sixtieth birthday jaunt to Thrace in 2008 we being among his assembled friends from all over the world. If this was other than a folk dance journal, I would be tempted to write more about Rosemarie and her husband Pat. Suffice to say that they are renowned photographers, explorers (they were preparing to embark on a trip to remote parts of Siberia personally sanctioned by Vladimir Putin) and they have a dream house with one of the best views in British Columbia. When I heard that Rosemarie was inviting Yves, France, Iliana and Todor to her tenth and final Folk Dance Festival we didn't have to ponder too long. The Dowsetts had to go.

Salt Spring Island can be reached by way of a three hour island-hopping voyage from Vancouver's ferry terminal or a shorter, direct passage from Victoria. It has earned a reputation as an artists' colony with a laid back lifestyle and, certainly, the reliance on ferry transport must inevitably keep a brake on the pace of life. As participants arrived – mainly from Canada and USA - for a pre-festival illustrated talk by Iliana we were reminded of the unique bond of friendship within the wider folk dancing community. Iliana and Todor presented a Bulgarian programme so Yves and France taught a broad selection of international dances from Albania, Spain, Brittany, Taiwan etc., similar to their recent Torquay programme.

Evening parties were enlivened with performances by a Polish orchestra, a Serbian ensemble and a group of local musicians. The social dance programmes included much that was familiar but we expected – and got – parochial variations. I must say I prefer our Bavno oro. More importantly it was a chance to enjoy some unfamiliar dances, compare notes, and make new friends. Pat Keough took a leading role in filming the workshops and we paid our thirty dollars for the promised DVD. He was at pains to tell us that a friend in the film industry would edit the resultant material and that, in Hollywood, the work would normally cost half a million dollars. This was all very well but we later discovered that the DVD would take the best part of a year to produce by which time the dances will be forgotten. It made me even more appreciative of Ron's speedy and high-quality DVD production.

Rosemarie may not be organising another Salt Spring Island Folk Dance Festival but a new team is already planning next year's renamed Lyrids Folk Dance Festival at Burnaby on Vancouver Island which will have the benefit of Yves' consultancy. The teachers will be Ahmet Luleci (Turkish) and Bata Marcetic (Serbian).

Our loose schedule allowed us to enjoy the company of our friends in a beautiful setting before we all departed for far flung destinations. Yves and France were flying almost immediately to Vietnam for a holiday while Iliana and Todor were starting a two month tour of the USA with their new dance programme and CD called "Destiny". I expect to be able to announce their next UK tour before too long but – and here comes a shameless plug – I expect some of the programme will be taught on the "Easter in Bulgaria" tour next year.

Brian Dowsett



27th Greek Traditional Dance Seminar

05 – 17 August 2013

Organizer: Yannis Konstantinou & Lygkistes

Lemos village – overlooking Prespes Lakes

Come enjoy 12 days of Greek dance and music in a region rich in history and where local traditions are still alive and can be experienced daily ... through glendia and panegyria with local musicians (xalkina, zournades, gaida, lyra) ... through the hospitality (filoxenia) of the local people ... through the Byzantine monuments and stone houses (palia spitia) ... and through the natural beauty of the Prespa Lakes and surrounding mountains!

For more details - including accommodation, prices and registration: Yannis Konstantinou (Greece) at yankost@otenet.gr and/or to Caroline Simmonds (USA) at caroline_simmonds@hotmail.com and/or to Maryse Fabre (France) at maryse.fabre3@wanadoo.fr

Koprivshitsa Festival 2015



Photo of performers from the Pernik region by Andrew Hardwick..

The National festival of Bulgarian Folklore which takes place every 5 years in the village of Koprivshitsa in the Sredna Gora Mountains of Central Bulgaria is planned for August 2015.

The British -Bulgarian Society (B-BS) will be running their regular tour and have already booked a lovely centrally located hotel. People from all over the world will be there, so getting accommodation in the village can be quite competitive. Luckily the B-BS have a very good record for securing comfortable and conveniently located accommodation for us. It is not possible to book this yet but if you would like any further information you can get in touch with Dr Annie Kay 020 7237 7616.

Cathy Meunier



SIFD Monthly Dance

The dance at Cecil Sharp House will be from 7pm -10pm on Sunday 7th July and will be led by Fiona Howarth.

There will be **no dance in August** but September's dance will follow the AGM on Sunday 8th September and will be led by Jeannette Hull.

Anne Maddocks



Dear Janet,

At the Eastbourne International Folk Dance Festival in May, I observed in a social evening a teacher who put the music on and started to teach a new dance to everyone, building it up and not saying a word. Everyone was dancing, smiling and having fun, beginners and experienced dancers alike. Maybe some were not on the correct foot or missing a few steps here or there, but everybody was dancing. At the other end of the spectrum another teacher walked through a very simple dance many times, talking constantly. When the music was put on, people began walking the dance.

There are different ways to teach and people enjoy dancing for different reasons.

One of the ideas Marina gave in her article on social dance (February issue) was to have a variety of leaders in an evening.

Why not give it a whirl?

Andrene Thompson





18th Century
Maltese Dress

The picture is by
Lesley Boorer,
and first appeared
thirty years ago.

Dear Janet,

The June edition of the S.I.F.D. News with its colour illustrations is delightful. Can we have this every month?

I suppose the extra cost is the drawback. There are, however, a lot more than 12 groups in the Society. Surely some groups could have a whip round and sponsor the extra cost for a particular month.

Also, some individual members could probably afford to splash out with a one-off donation. Out of our several hundred members just 60 donations would cover the cost for 5 years.

I hope this idea appeals to you, with all good wishes,

David Rackham



Well, yes it's easy for me to say that this idea appeals to me - but does it appeal to everyone else? Dalila in particular, because it entails extra work, a different method of production and just might not be viable.

Ed.



Woodvale IFDG have been reviewing their dance music and instructions.

We find that we do not have instructions for **Copeo de Montana** from Majorca. Rather than do the dance wrongly from memory we would prefer to be a bit more accurate, so does anyone have instructions that they could email or post to me?

Any reasonable cost could be reimbursed.

Jenny Cant

38 Crowhurst Road,

Borough Green,

Sevenoaks, Kent. TN15 8SJ

Phone: 01732 883405

Email: jenny@jennycant.plus.com

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 JULY

- S.I **Sunday 7th SIFD DANCE** see page 15
- S.I **Friday 12th BARNET SUMMER PARTY** with music by Dunav.
8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts.EN5 4BW
£6 Brian Dowsett 01992 582717
- S.I **Friday 19th RAINMAKERS END OF TERM PARTY** 8-11pm at
St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £2.50 on
the night. MC Jill Bransby. All welcome. Please bring food to share.
More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).
- S.I **Saturday 27th 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



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