

# Society for International Folk Dancing NEWS

August 2013



# **SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING**

registered charity number 284509

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

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

This month's cover: two girls from The Allenova School of Dancing wearing the Italian costumes from the PIFD group, their Israeli costumes are pictured on the back.

\*

Fiona Howarth is compiling a "scrapbook" of memories from her class members to commemorate their 40th anniversary in September. Mary Fergar, a real SIFD veteran, has given permission for her contribution to appear in this month's News (page 17).

\*\*

erratum: "Kapuvari Csárdás" in Sybil Chapman's article (page 7, July SIFD News) is, of course, Kapuvari Verbunk.

**Ed**



## **SIFD Monthly Dance Cecil Sharp House**

There will be no dance in August but September's dance will be at 7pm on Sunday 8th September led by Jeanette Hull and will follow the AGM.

If you have never been to a monthly dance before you will receive a warm welcome. It doesn't matter how long you have been dancing as there is always a mixture of easier dances alongside the more complex ones and the music from the SIFD band is always beautifully played and lovely to dance to. So do come and join us, we'd love to see you there.

Dates for the rest of the year are:

Sunday October 13th

Sunday November 10th

and please note that the December dance is now December 8th not December 1st as originally announced due to Cecil Sharp House being booked for the whole of the earlier weekend.

**Anne Maddocks**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Sep.7 LOIDIS IFDG's 30th ANNIVERSARY** see page 12
- S.I **Sep.8 SIFD AGM** 4.30pm at Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London, NW1 7AY From 2pm to 4.30 there will be a dance workshop, and afterwards a social dance.
- S.I **Sep.14 BALKANPLUS** - at Cecil Sharp House, 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. Ensuite hotel accomm. DB&B, Bournemouth. Cost £175 (dancers) £155 (musicians & singers). please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com)
- S.I **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](http://www.interfolk.co.uk)
- 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
- Oct.11-13 GREEK FOLK DANCE COURSE** South Cotswolds. Christiana Katsarou, dances from the Greek Islands. Cost £90 please send a SAE to Hazel Young, Field View, Downend, Horsley, Glos. GL6 0PQ or email : [hazel@hazelyoung.co.uk](mailto:hazel@hazelyoung.co.uk) (Tel: 01453 834 125)
- S.I **Oct.18 RAINMAKERS ANNIVERSARY DANCE** 8-11pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £8.00 on the day. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).
- S.I **Oct.26-27 BALKANPLUS ROMANIAN WEEKEND** Workshop with Marius Ursu at Cecil Sharp House. Full weekend £45, single workshop £25, Both workshops £40, Sat. eve. party £8. Discounts for season ticket holders, please send a cheque payable to Balkanplus and SAE to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. phone Maureen 01473 272256 or Brian 01992 582717.

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

**S.I Nov.8-10 SIFD W.M. BRANCH WEEKEND** at Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, Derbys DE4 5JH with Marina Wolstenholme £140  
margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk or ring: 0797-464-9311



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.



### **An Extra Day of Dancing at Willersley**

On Friday 8th November before the West Midlands weekend course with Marina at Willersley Castle there will be an extra day course with Chrisandra Harris. She will teach a selection of Armenian, Greek, Turkish and Russian dances many from her travels. The plan for the day is dancing from 1030 to 1230 and 2 to 4pm. The cost for the whole day is £10. For morning only or afternoon only £6. Coffee, tea and lunch can be purchased if required. For further details please contact Janet King at [j.king194@btinternet.com](mailto:j.king194@btinternet.com) or ring 0162957065. Booking is required for this event.



### **Cathy comes to Derbyshire**

Dance workshop with Cathy Meunier on 23rd November in Calver Village Hall S32 3XR from 1030 to 1630. Cost for the day £12. Further details from Greg Boyd or Janet King on 07810181273 or 162957065 respectively or email [greg.boyd99@aol.com](mailto:greg.boyd99@aol.com) or [j.king194@btinternet.com](mailto:j.king194@btinternet.com)

**Janet King**

## **The Derbyshire Dancers dance for Croatia.**

A few weeks ago I had a phone call from Professor Nenad Bićanić, well known to SIFD members as our Croatian teacher. He came last year to teach one of the Balkan Dance weekends organised by Barlow IFDG and the Derbyshire Dancers.

To mark the accession of Croatia to the EU on July 1st, the gift of an Istrian Kažun was being made to the UK, and Nenad was organizing the Croatian side of the celebration. The Peak District of Derbyshire was chosen for the location, because of the similarity of the limestone landscape to that of Croatia, and our shared traditions of dry-stone building, and, of course, shepherding. Kažuni were built as shelters for animals, and people working in the fields, and this one was built by stonemasons from Istria, using our local limestone.

The Winster Morris Men were going to dance for England, and the Derbyshire Dancers were to dance for Croatia! Nenad chose Letovanić for our contribution, and on the morning of the celebration, Janet King kindly lent us time and space at her U3A class in Matlock to rehearse. This also gave her group a chance to learn from Nenad, and several of them came to support us in the afternoon.

The Ambassador H.E. Dr. Ivan Grdešić, and the Chair of the Peak District National Park Cllr. Tony Favell MBE were at the launch, and music was provided by pupils of Lady Manners school, who played a selection of Croatian folk songs and the National Anthems.

Nenad's aim in choosing Letovanić was to make the dance simple enough for people to be able to join in, and after a demonstration of it by my group, many others joined the circle and we all danced together.

The day was warm and sunny, and the Peak District was showing at its glorious best on the afternoon of July 5th. The hut is on the Tissington Trail, one of the most popular walking, cycling and riding trails in the National Park, and will be used as an informal shelter for visitors, and especially for school children visiting the area.

The hut is at Parsley Hay Cycle Centre, Biggin, (SK17 ODG, for your sat-nav,) so that you can visit Croatia's gift to the UK when you are in the area.

**Marina Wolstenholm**

## Costumes

Sue Clarke had put an article into the magazine offering her dance troupe's costumes to anyone who could make use of them as long as they could be collected.

My young dancers are always desperate for costumes and so I contacted Sue and spent a lovely afternoon in beautiful Wales with Sue.

*One of the girls is pictured right in a Czech costume.*

*(See the front and back covers for pictures of the girls modelling the Italian and Israeli costumes from PIFD.)*



I would like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to Sue on behalf of the young dancers in my folk dance troupe at The Allenova School of Dancing, they are so very grateful to Sue for giving them the chance to wear more costumes and shoes and will always wear them with pride as we knew how much they meant to Sue and the lovely ladies that were part of her group.

Thank you Sue you are a very kind and generous lady, we are so very grateful.  
Best Wishes,

**Tanya Allen**



## Dance Bulgaria

This was the title of a recent tour run by Balkania Travel in conjunction with the British Bulgarian Society. After 18 months of planning, we set off in early June, a group of 6 participants plus Cathy Meunier as our tour leader. Although technically this was a tour run by a travel company, in practice we all knew each other, so was more like a group of friends on holiday together.

For the whole week we stayed at a hotel in Dobursko, a small village about three hours drive South of Sofia, near Bansko and between Rila and Pirin, but ethnographically very much part of Pirin, and scenically located at 3,400 feet. The hotel was better than most I have stayed at in this part of Europe, with good food, and friendly and helpful staff. My spacious room had a large balcony (but no time to use it!), with a South facing panorama of the Pirin range.

One of the most notable aspects of this trip was the efforts and efficiency of the many Bulgarians looking after us, several of whom I already knew - the names Dani, Julia and Mitko will be familiar to many who have travelled here. BBS had clearly taken account of Cathy's requests for what should be included in the holiday.



*Doburskite Babi*



In addition to the dancing, a significant amount of sightseeing and some walking were included. Dobursko has a small church, insignificant on the outside, but on entering the interior is covered with frescoes considered to be among the finest in the world, including a famous mural of Jesus ascending to Heaven on what looks like a space rocket; we walked to a waterfall and through (steep!) woods to a 4th century kiln. We did a full day trip to the South side of Pirin, to Rozhen, where we walked to its monastery, (together with Rila one of the main monasteries in Bulgaria), this one still in a very natural state due to its remoteness. We then walked on to Melnik, almost on the border with Greece, (a scenic and at times quite strenuous hill walk past sandstone ‘pyramids’, and with much wildlife explained to us), and travelled back across the dramatic Pirin mountains. On other days we were taken round Bankso, a nearby resort mainly used during the ski season, and also a full day to Rila Monastery, and walked to where the founder of the monastery had lived as a hermit.

For part of the holiday we were joined by Mitko Petrov. He ran three morning teaching sessions for us in the hotel, 11 dances in all, several from Pirin and others from various parts of Bulgaria. This included Melniško, which he taught here in 2011 but we wanted to revise, and also having by now been to the town, otherwise the dances were all new to us. Many of you will remember Mitko’s UK tour in 2011, so will already know of his extensive knowledge of dances and high standard of teaching.

Probably the best part of the holiday, and which can be achieved only by going to Bulgaria, was the local dance and singing groups we encountered, five such visits were arranged for us, and mostly ‘local village’ groups rather than choreographed performances. On our first evening the Doburskite Babi (grannies) from the village came to our hotel and performed singing and also some dancing, both of which we joined in with. This local group is renowned in Bulgaria and regularly performs at Koprivshtitsa. This included a wedding ceremony, for which Cathy and Chris Yemm were nominated, and dressed up in costume for; we never quite followed what was happening, so are still vague as to whether they are now married!



*Our group with Babi in Gorno Draglishte:  
(left to right) Ffiona Eaves, Chris Yemm, Andrew Hardwick, Martin Phillips, Cathy Meunier, Jackie Charbit-Middleton, Gill Wakley*



*Chris and Cathy's 'wedding ceremony'*

The next day we went to another Babi group, singing, dancing and live music in their small house and along the street; but our attempts at performing an English dance for them less successful than their efforts. We visited two further groups to watch their weekly rehearsals, one included a session for small children. We spent one afternoon at a cookery session in a village house, helping to make pumpkin 'pie', and also pompoms, enjoyable although this had more of a feel of a commercial venture. The final group we saw was mostly young, formed just a year ago, but dancing to a high standard and with impressive energy and enthusiasm; performing for us and then we joining in, on a large stage in a theatre - we should note this group and venue for next time! Much was included in this holiday, and beyond our expectations. But some events cannot be planned for. There was a wedding in our hotel (a real one this time). There was much dancing through the afternoon and evening in the hotel grounds, and, as is common in this part of the world, they were very keen for us visitors to join in, making this yet another highlight.

With plenty organised for us, we were occupied for most of the holiday, but at a leisurely pace, and we still found plenty of time for sitting around idly in cafés, etc.

We think we have persuaded Mitko to make another visit to Britain next year. So many more of you may then have the opportunity to learn some of these dances, and there is the potential of a range of interesting material for him to teach us in the future.

And finally, many thanks to Cathy, and the other tour members, for making this such a memorable holiday; also to Andrew Hardwick for filming and producing a DVD of the dances we learnt. Hopefully BBS and Cathy will run more such tours, either back to this area or elsewhere in Bulgaria; do consider coming - we achieved so much in one week.

**Martin Phillips**



My apologies to **Susan Chetwynd**, who contacted me about B&Bs in the Bognor / Barnham area for the **Vintage Israeli workshop**. I have mislaid your address - so here follow a few possibilities:

Downhills B&B, 01243 553104 Situated in Barnham village with restaurants and main line rail link, within walking distance.

Jubilee Guest House, 75 yards from Bognor Regis seafront and beach and directly opposite Butlins Day Visits Entrance. 01243 863016

Premier Inn Bognor Regis, Shripney Road, Bognor Regis PO22 9PA - halfway between Bognor and Barnham - only bookable online.

There is a Travelodge at Fontwell, on the A27 at the Barnham and Bognor exit.

**Janet Douglas**



## Loidis IFDG

We enjoyed a special event for our last meeting of the Spring session. We held an Israeli dance evening in memory of our friend and founder member Netta Marks, who sadly passed away earlier this year.

Although during the last two or three years Netta was unable to attend the Group regularly, she always joined us when we held special events and parties, and joined in with enthusiasm. She loved the "older" Israeli dances, her favourite being "Mechol Giborim" Dance of the Heroes. She was always "busy", turning her hand to any job, from cooking to making tea for Loidis events.



We welcomed Netta's daughter and some of her dance friends, and the evening was a great success, with an appropriate supper enjoyed by all, Netta would have loved it! She will always be remembered through our dances!

Our next event is our 30th anniversary workshop with Marina, followed by a party and bring and share supper. 7th SEPTEMBER is the date – see full details within this edition of the News.

**Ian Willson**

## **Loidis' 30th Anniversary Workshop and Party**

September 7th 2013, 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 are available by application to:

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

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](mailto:ianrwillson@tiscali.co.uk) or 01423 505006.



## **Dance by the Sea with Turgay & Mitko - Summer 2014**

Tues 29th July - Mon 4th Aug

The teachers for this summer course will be Turgay Onatli teaching Turkish folk dance, and Dimitar Petrov (known to us as Mitko) teaching Bulgarian folk dance.

The course will be split into two parts and you can attend either or both. The early part (Tuesday to Friday) will be more relaxed, with dance tuition in the mornings and free time to explore the area or relax by the pool in the afternoons. The second part (Friday to Monday) will provide options for half days or full days of dancing. There will be social dancing every evening. The venue is the Livermead hotel Torquay with its high standards of service and cuisine and an award-winning chef, in a great location overlooking the sea on the south-west coast.

More details to follow.

**Cathy Meunier**

# Romanian & Russian Folk Dance Course in Sheffield

19th - 20th October 2013

**Cristian Florescu, Sonia Dion and Radboud Koop**

This will be Cristian and Sonia's third visit to England. If you have danced with them before you will know what a treat we are in for!



They are most entertaining and yet highly professional in the way they present their dances. They love to share with us their wealth of knowledge about Romanian folkdance and traditions. This time they would like to introduce to us their very good friend Radboud Koop who specialises in Russian folk dance.



Radboud (*left*) has been working with Hennie Konings for the past 25 years both in the Netherlands and in Russia with Olga Zolotova, director of the Pyatnitsky Ensemble folk dance school. He has become very popular in the Netherlands and in Europe, Canada and the USA.

He was a great "hit" at Stockton folk dance camp in the USA. This will be an amazing opportunity to dance with three exceptionally talented folk dance teachers. They are lovely warm-hearted people who are a delight to be with.

## Programme and venues

### Saturday 19th October

Ecclesall Parish Hall, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield S11 7PP free on-street parking, buses from City Centre

11:00 - 17:30 Dance course Romanian & Russian folk dance

18:00 - 19:00 Meat or veggie pie & pea supper including apple crumble desert (bring own drinks).

19:00 - 22:00 Social dance

### Sunday 20th October

Crookes Social Club, Mulehouse Road, Sheffield S10 1TD free on-street parking, buses from City Centre

10:30 - 16:30 Dance course Romanian & Russian folk dance

### Cost

Whole weekend £55 with supper / £52 without supper

Saturday course \*\* £33

Saturday social dance £5

Sunday course £25

\*\* subject to availability

For more information or to book a place please contact Greg Boyd or Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX. Tel 017687 73117 (home) email: [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com). We can provide a list of accommodation in the area if you would like this.



There is no music from the **Wilf Horrocks' Collection** this month. Next month, in the September issue I intend to publish his music for **Rhwf Wyth** (from Wales); and you are all invited to send details, notes and experiences of Rhwf Wyth to accompany it.

**Ed.**





## Mary Fergar's Dancing History

My folk dance roots go back to 1955 when I was working at the BBC in the Rumanian section at Bush House. A series of third programme presentations of music from the Balkans had me glued to the radio, enchanted by this music and longing to dance properly to it.

By great good fortune someone in the Rumanian section knew Philip Thornton, who had taught a few Rumanian girls some dances for their National Day. I was allowed to learn and take part. This led to SIFD classes at a school in Chelsea where Philip and Ken Ward ran the Balkan dance group. We performed more than once in the Royal Albert Hall in the annual "See how they dance".

Eventually Philip gave up teaching and Ken took over. I kept going over a number of years through four pregnancies until I could see that it made sense to join Fiona's class as it was local to my home in Bromley. At that time we were meeting in Hayes Secondary School before moving on to Nightingale Lane and eventually out of the Adult Education sector altogether.

Nowadays Fiona and I need only walk a few steps down our road for the International class, and round the corner to a church hall for the U3A.

Of course I have very much enjoyed the opportunity to keep dancing over so many years, even though only truly inspired by Balkan and Israeli dances.

The other great pleasure after all these years is the company and friendship of so many other people with similar interests and shared history. Thank you Fiona.



## SIFD Committee

- Chair:** Helen Ezra 84 Farm Road, Morden, Surrey SM4 6RB  
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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 AUGUST

**Sunday 4th - Friday 9th MACHOL EUROPA**, full and part time Israeli dance course at Warwick University, Coventry. 0208 209 3155 or [info@idi.org.uk](mailto:info@idi.org.uk)

**S.I Friday 23rd - Monday 26th WILLINGDON 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



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