

Society for International Folk Dancing NEWS

September 2013



SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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

Fiona Howarth has sent an item about the Bromley International Folk Dance Class (page 7). Hopefully, this may remind you to send tales, history and pictures of your group.

The Bromley logo appears this issue, and, the Welsh costume illustration on the front page (from 1974) was drawn by Caroline Thomas. **Ed.**



Bexhill IFDG 20th Anniversary

On Thursday 5th September Bexhill IFDG will be celebrating its 20th anniversary with an evening of favourite dances plus plenty of eats, hopefully.

Any SIFD member in the vicinity will be welcome to join us from 7.30 - 9.30pm at Little Common Methodist Hall, Church Hill Avenue, Little Common, Bexhill.

Information from **Heather Edwards**, 01424 222382.



SIFD Dance

SIFD Monthly Dance at Cecil Sharp House:

September's dance will be at 7pm on Sunday 8th September led by Jeannette Hull and will follow an afternoon workshop at 2pm and the AGM.

Dates for the rest of the year are:

Sunday October 13th led by Dot Bradbury and Anne Maddocks

Sunday November 10th led by Brenda and Philip Steventon

Sunday December 8th led by Jill Bransby

Come along and enjoy live music and lively varied dances. There is something for everyone whether you have been dancing for a few months or fifty years.

Anne Maddocks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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.13 SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- Oct.11-13 GREEK FOLK DANCE COURSE** South Cotswolds. Christiana Katsarou - Greek Islands dances. £90 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.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 WM BRANCH WEEKEND** at Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, Derbys DE4 5JH with Marina Wolstenholme £140 margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk or ring: 0797-464-9311
- S.I **Nov.23 CATHY IN DERBYSHIRE** Dance workshop with Cathy Meunier in Calver Village Hall. S32 3XR. 10.30 - 16.30. Cost £12. Further details from Greg Boyd or Janet King on 07810181273 or 0162957065 respectively or email greg.boyd99@aol.com or j.king194@btinternet.com
- S.I **April 5-6 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 .

Wilf's Music for next month:

Kriči Kriči Tiček (whistle little birdie) from the former Yugoslavia will be featured next month. **Ed.**



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 or ring 01629 57065.

Booking is required for this event by Friday 25th October.



Bulgarian Costume For Sale

I am a past member of one of the three clubs of West Midlands Folk and SIFD. Alf Garton and I left the Midlands to live in Devon in 1996, Alf having run one of the clubs. In the early 90's we visited Bulgaria and I still have my costume from Sofia. I want to sell this and hope you can include this item in your next edition.

The costume has an underblouse with three quarter length sleeves, a black sequinned dress (UK 14/16) with red apron, knitted socks and savoulies (UK 6), also white headscarf with red edges. I would like £100. (A blue and white Israeli shirt would be included - no buttons straight over the head.)

tel. 07985 196908.

Frances Garton

NB Frances is away until 17th September.

“Everybody On The Floor With Fiona”

Memories of Bromley International Folk Dance Class - 2003

In 1973 I entered a small terraced house in Bromley and went upstairs to the Office of Bromley Adult Education Institute. I spoke to the Principal Mr Thompson

Me - “Would you like an International folk dance Class?”

Sir – “Yes, all right then”

Life was simple in those days!

The class started that September at Hayes Secondary School in the gym. I was pleased to see a good number of people, some of whom are still attending the class today. Our enrolment was always around the twenty mark. The music was on reel-to-reel tape, so tapes had to be rewound constantly before being changed and you had to guess where each dance started. I built up a stock of very short tapes to cope with this. What a joyful moment it was when cassettes were introduced.

In those days the Institute used to hold festivals of Physical Activity for all their classes – Keep Fit, Judo, Health & Beauty, Medau, dancing, and some sports classes were given about fifteen minutes each to put on a display. All the groups were in costumes and made a great deal of effort.

One year I decided that our class would do a display of Israeli dances. This included a fishermen’s dance. The dancers were in a line and one step represented the throwing forwards and back of a long fishing net. I had a brilliant idea – we could use a badminton net and decorate it with fish. Another inspiration was to change the front by swinging the whole net up over our heads from one side to the other. We all collected plastic carrier bags of bright colours and cut out and sewed on fish shapes while we waited for our turn to dance at the big dress rehearsal. It went well then, but at the actual performance I felt a strange sensation in my foot; my big toe was caught in the mesh of the net! I had a few seconds of rather strange extracting-type steps before the big moment when the net was swung over our heads, fortunately without taking my foot with it.

On another occasion I had been chosen to round off the proceedings by leading a few easy dances for everyone to take part. I was somewhat startled to hear the item introduced by Mr Thompson – “ And now for the Grande Finale; everybody on the floor with Fiona!”

The class repertoire grew with dances from Billingham Festival, the International Summer schools, Day courses, and classes I attended in London. We now have a database of our repertoire which covers 400+ dances some of which have definitely fallen into desuetude.

A tradition grew up very early on of celebrating the last class before Christmas with a Fancy Dress party. Each year we have a theme, these have included Underground Stations, book titles, a famous person, a country, food, black and white, films, “Wee Folk” and many more . I remember dyeing my hair pink and going as a blancmange, and we can never forget the sight of Beryl as Jake the Peg dancing the whole evening with a very convincing extra leg.

Some years ago The Institute was having a celebration of the EEC at Kentwood and we had to make up a programme of dances from the member countries; some of them were very difficult but we managed a respectable selection and found a symbolic hat for each country. We wore the class tee shirts with our Logo of footprints in a circle around a dancing figure.

We have celebrated milestones with Dance Parties on Saturdays – ten year and twenty year Anniversaries, and special birthdays, Rose is the winner with 87 years and still dancing.

The class has met in various locations – Hayes Secondary School, St Mark’s Primary School, Raglan Primary School and now the Widmore Centre.

Since 1996 we have had an annual residential Workshop Weekend, in Isle of Wight and Bourton on the Water. This year we shall be going to Eastbourne. Class members and dancing friends are invited and the dances learned are incorporated into the class repertoire.

Our most ambitious Occasion was the Silver Anniversary Dance. All past class members were contacted and many came along or sent good wishes. Other dance classes also sent representatives but no-one came from the Institute.



above: the "school photo"





below: the traditional Hach Basela round the tables



We decorated the Hall at St Mark's with cascades of silver, balloons, and tinsel, and most of us decorated ourselves, so it was a sparkling affair. All the remaining Founder Members received Silver Award Certificates and of course the refreshments were superb, with a magnificent cake.

At our thirtieth we had a really good enrolment of 31, 8 of whom were new members. The standard was getting better every year and I really enjoyed the class, mainly because I have such wonderful students.

The Next Ten Years

This September we shall celebrate 40 years of the class. A lot of changes have occurred in the last decade.



We had many class outings to Hastings where my daughter was living, and where I was house-sitting in the Summer. We picnicked and danced in the garden and had a beach party in the wonderful beach hut. Our Fancy dress Christmas parties continued and culminated in the title "Christmas Carols". I arranged to go with Barbara as "Masters in this Hall" wearing gowns and mortarboards, while all the rest of the class conspired to come as angels for "Hark the Herald Angels Sing".

(See the "school photo" with headteachers and students, centre page) >.

The Bromley Adult Education suddenly changed its policy in 2007 and not only discontinued concessionary fees but increased existing fees by a huge amount. I decided that rather than continue with only those who could afford this increase I would opt out. I found a small hall in my road and we have continued to meet there with a select number.

In 2011 we held a big Reunion Dance for all past and present members of Bromley International and also Hama'agal Israeli Group. It attracted huge numbers of dancers from both groups. There was a reminiscence room full of photos albums, wall displays, and costume items – it echoed with cries of "I'd forgotten that!" "look at this, I didn't know you were there" etc.

Hama'agal Israeli Group



Bromley International



We now look forward to celebrating our 40th year at the first class in September. Here's to the half century!

Fiona Howarth, tutor of Bromley International



Updates and two timely reminders for Balkan dance fans

This is the month to act to be sure of a place on the Balkanplus Romanian dance weekend with Marius Ursu and the Easter in Bulgaria tour with Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov. Both happen to have a cap of 45 places and both look as if they might end up being sell outs.

Marius and Maria Ursu are looking forward to their first UK visit and teaching at Cecil Sharp House on 26th and 27th October. Just be aware that the workshop tickets may sell out quickly.

The Balkanplus party on Saturday 26th October is open to all and is being organised by Nick and Liz. They are working with Dragan Draganov to arrange for the talented Bulgarian musicians, professional singers, and dancers of Tanec ensemble to participate alongside Marius. Look out for confirmation and further details next month.

Iliana's Easter in Bulgaria tour from 13th to 26th April 2014 is also attracting a lot of interest with about half of the places filled already. Iliana is second to none when it comes to organising a Bulgarian folklore experience. She confirms that places on the tour will be reserved for her British friends until early October when she embarks on tours of Holland and Germany. Remaining places would then be offered to Dutch and German enthusiasts. Again, now is the time to act if you are thinking of coming.

Full details of the workshops and the tour can be found via the News page of the Balkanplus website www.balkanplus.org.uk or contact me on 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com

Brian Dowsett



Balkanplus

The September Balkanplus will be held on the 14th September 2013 at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC for the evening will be Jane Goode from the Hursley Group. Admission £5.

Rhif Wyth

The title means Number Eight, or in English terminology Figure of Eight. (By the way Wyth is pronounced ooy-th, th having the sound of thick, not this).

Many years ago, when I started learning Welsh, I attended the Royal National Eisteddfod (the Welsh one, not the International one in Llangollen). I was particularly interested in a dancing group, in which a friend of mine, whom I had previously met at the RSCDS Summer School in Scotland, was a dancer. About half an hour before their performance I was approached with the news that one of their men failed to turn up and they might not be able to perform. There was a tentative suggestion that, as a Scottish country dancer, I should be able to stand in, though it was admitted that it was rather a hopelessly short notice for somebody who had never danced anything Welsh. I was overwhelmed by their blind trust in my dancing abilities, and said YES. To their credit they prompted me during the performance mostly in English, as my Welsh was then very basic. Till this day I think I was quite brave – and lucky that no recording was made of my performance. I believe one of the dances I participated in was Rhif Wyth.

I discovered I possess a video tape on which it is danced by Dawnsyr Delyn, a group who are members of the Welsh Folk Dance Society (Cymdeithas Ddawns Werin Cymru). Watching the tape, I have recorded the dance instructions below (and I hope I got the bars right). The demonstration is danced by three couples, three times through, but I believe it would also be danced in the “Scottish” way, i.e. in a four couple set, eight times through, with each couple dancing the sequence twice.

Dal Sudwell

RHIF WYTH

3 x 64 bars

3 couple longwise set

Step: step-step-step-hop (though some dancers on the tape tend to do step-close-step-hop, which is probably wrong) *continued overleaf*

RHYF WYTH (FIGURE EIGHT)

A Wales

6 G Am D7 G D D7

10 B G C G D7 G

15 G C A D7

G C G D7 G

- 1 – 4 1st couple cast to 2nd place (2nd couple step up)
- 5 – 8 and turn right hand
- 9 – 12 cast below 3rd couple (3rd couple do not step up)
- 13 - 16 turn left hand
- 17 – 24 cross passing left shoulder and cast up into figure of 8
- round 3rd couple finishing improper
- 25 – 32 cross passing right shoulder and cast up into figure of 8
- round 2nd couple finishing in the first place on their own side
- 33 – 40 circle to the left with 2nd lady twice round
- 41 – 48 circle to the left with 2nd man twice round
- 49 – 56 reel of three across with 2nd lady (2nd lady giving left
- shoulder to 1st man to start the reel)
- 57 – 64 reel of three across with 2nd man (2nd man giving right
- shoulder to 1st lady to start the reel)

At the end of the second reel the 1st couple unobtrusively cast to the bottom, while 2nd and 3rd couples dance up and 2nd couple immediately starts casting to begin the dance again

AGM, Workshop and Dance

As already announced the 2013 AGM will be held on Sunday 8th September at 4.30, at Cecil Sharp House.

Earlier in the afternoon at Cecil Sharp House there will be a Workshop with Marion Nieuwenhuizen, 2.00 – 4.30.

After the AGM anyone who is interested in taking an SIFD Teacher's Badge Exam, or in developing their teaching skills or in contributing to teacher development, is invited to meet informally.

The Social Dance in the evening, 7.00 – 10.00, will be led by Jeanette Hull and others.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.



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

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

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 SEPTEMBER

- 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.
- Sep.8 SIFD AGM** see page 15
- Sep.14 BALKANPLUS** see page 12
- 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. Live music, social dancing, singing workshops. Cost £175 (dancers) £155 (musicians & singers). 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 cathy_meunier@hotmail.com
- S.I **Sep.21 SINGERS & MUSICIANS DAYSCHOOL & SOCIAL** Dance in Bournemouth. Balkan & Israeli folk dance music. £20. All welcome. No previous experience necessary. Please book in advance. s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com
- 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



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