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December 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.

Happy Christmas

First, a big 'thankyou' to Dalila Heath for getting the News out, through the post and electronically, for another year whilst wearing so many hats and juggling so many jobs.

The front cover shows Swedish Santa Lucia celebrations; and below, a photo of Janet Woolbar, at Dunford last year. She has served as SIFD Chairman, more than once, and also looks after the costume collection; also pictured are Joe and Sheila Cott - unsung heroes who have turned up at SIFD courses for years to film the dances. This seems like a good time to thank them, and also, everyone who has contributed letters, articles and pictures for the SIFD News this year.

Ed.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan. 5 SIFD DANCE** see page 9
- S.I **Jan. 11 BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Meryl Abraham
- S.I **Jan. 18 OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, St. Margaret's Hall, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford OX2 6TN. 7:00 to 10:00. Food & drink provided. Music: CDs and Dunav. Tickets will be sold at the door: Adults £10; children under 14: £3.00. Children under 4 free. For more information email: sally.humphrey@onetel.net or charlotte@haenlein.co.uk
- S.I **Feb. 2 SIFD DANCE** see page 9
- S.I **Feb. 6–11 RIVIERADANCE! 2014** : Belco Stanev (Bulgarian), Vincent Parodi (Israeli) & Kyriakos Moisisdis (Greek), Singing workshops with Recording Artist Talitha MacKenzie & Helena MacGilp, Instrumental workshops with Balkan music specialists Chris Elmes & Maya Buckley. Livermead Hotel Torquay. Non-dancing friends and family welcome. 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 **Feb. 8 BALKAN INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC WORKSHOP** 10am-5pm with Chris Elmes and Maya Buckley. Cost: £30. Anyone who is already booked on the RIVIERADANCE! 2014 holiday can attend the workshop at no extra charge. See above for contact details.
- S.I **Mar.23 SUNDAY AFTERNOON WITH CORRY VERHEIJEN**
A half day course of European folk dances with Corry Verheijen from the Netherlands hosted by SIFD W Mids Branch 2.15-5.00pm at Elmdon Heath Community Centre, Cornyx Lane, Solihull B91 2SF (nr Jn5 on M42). SIFD members £5. More details nearer the time from Maggie Kaye: margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk or 0797 464 9311
- S.I **Apr. 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'Mahony at maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk .

- S.I **Apr. 12 HELP FOR HAITI 5** - an afternoon of followable dances from around the world at Barnham Community Hall, nr. Bognor Regis, PO22 0AX. Raffle and tabletop sale - proceeds for St. Saviour's Priory, Haiti mission. 2pm - 5.30pm. £8 (children £4) includes tea-time treats. Details from Janet Douglas 01243 265010 or www.interfolk.co.uk
- S.I **Apr. 25--28 GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Friday evening to Monday afternoon) (near Alcester, Warwickshire). International dancing with visiting group Dansgroep Oostzaan from the Netherlands who will share their Dutch and other dances with us (have a preview by seeing them on YouTube!); 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.
- S.I **May 2-5 HALSWAY SIFD LONG WEEKEND** dancing led by Janet Woolbar. Full board - Fri. dinner - Mon. tea £209pp + ensuite £21. Single supplement £20. Mon. night £30 + ensuite £5. Contact Gordon Adie:- e-mail grdnadie@aol.com 'phone 01872 260517 mobile 0757 661 2616 or 4, Upper Lemon Villas, Truro, TR1 2PD
- May 2-5 EASTBOURNE FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL** see p. 12



The Marius Ursu Romanian Workshop DVD

This is an announcement to those that purchased the DVD/CD set from Marius on his recent visit.

Some people have found technical faults when playing the DVD. These DVDs are on DVD+R media which has some compatibility issues with older DVD players that do not have full DVD compatibility, notably old Panasonic players. Please check your copy.

If you find that you have an issue, you may be willing and able to play the DVD on your PC or even to copy the DVD onto DVD-R media. Otherwise please contact me and I will organise a replacement.

Brian Dowsett bvdowsett@aol.com

Easter in Bulgaria. 13 days from 13th April 2004

It is still possible to book a place on Iliana Bozhanova's exciting tour to North Bulgaria and I can now confirm that, with Ron and Jean Wilks in the party, there will be a top quality film record of the trip available to participants.

The tour begins near Plovdiv with Iliana's ensemble providing the hospitality, then we travel north to meet four authentic and two professional ensembles - staying in three star hotels. The programme includes sightseeing and dance workshops with Iliana and Todor. The cost is £975 with a £65 supplement for a single room. The air fare is not included.

Balkanplus has kindly provided a link on their website www.balkanplus.org.uk for full details and the booking form. Or contact me on bvdowsett@aol.com or 01992 582717.

Brian Dowsett



Llangollen - "Is this folk?"

No doubt many members will have opinions on your question in the November News, whether or not they bother to express them. Here's mine.

Whether any given thing is 'folk' or not depends on what one means by that term. As applied to song, it has been used with so many different meanings for so long as to have become almost useless for defining what anyone is referring to. The same might seem to be happening in relation to dance. Certainly not everyone will agree about the boundaries of 'folk dance'.

For what it's worth, however, I would argue that Llangollen's "urban dance" COULD count as 'folk' insofar as it is what some people do for their own enjoyment, as opposed to what performers do for money. However it would seem too new to qualify (yet) as 'traditional' or to fall within SIFD's purview.

Richard Mellish

Halsway Manor Weekend Questions

History is easily lost in the mists of time. Like annual family holidays the dates of SIFD activities are easily mixed up. So, when was the first Halsway Manor May w/end and who initiated this very enjoyable event? There hasn't always been a May Day bank holiday. Whitsun was turned into the Spring Bank Holiday. After the initial year, an anonymous Whitehall committee fixed May Day bank holiday to the first Monday in May. This extension enabled a welcome holiday for SIFD members to enjoy the Spring in Somerset and rambles through the countryside. This coming year the date is 2-5/6 May with details in last issue of SIFD News. But, will you help us to have enough dancers for 12 or even 16 around the Maypole? It's awkward holding two and a half ribbons which makes plaiting around the pole a mathematical nightmare! Midlands Margrett is the current croquet champion and has held this position for two years. Can Margaret from London end this reign? Rules are written as play progresses and mallets changed or shared as the heads come off and go through the hoops instead of the ball. Why not challenge the children to a game of chess? Some say the birds in the rookery are a little noisy. Could the solution be a scarecrow? Or, perhaps a fast rotating Maypole with dancers hanging on might frighten the rooks away.

Dancing will be led and taught by Janet with plenty of live music from Stella and you don't have to be an expert. The weekend includes a trip to an old NT house or mansion. There we have it. Just come along to Halsway with a selection from the following - boots, ski stick for walking, mallet, scarecrow, jokes and answers to the above questions. Of course, you need a pair of shoes for dancing as well to have a thoroughly enjoyable time!!

John Boyd



The December Balkanplus will be held on the 14th December at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Maddy & John plus live music with Dunav. Admission £7.

Maureen Felton

Hazel Glass



I am sorry to inform you that Hazel died on 15th October, aged 72, after battling with illness for the last 5 years. Hazel played violin in the SIFD band for many years and really enjoyed the International music. I met her at Staplers English Country Dance Club in Hitchin in 1976 and the following year got some musicians together to play music for the Rainmakers International Folk Dance group. Hazel was in the original line up of Cloudburst. (I wrote an article about Cloudburst in the News in August 2012.)

Over the last 36 years we have had a lot of fun playing together and sharing jokes (Hazel had a good sense of humour). On Monday 21st October it was my turn to call the English dancing at Staplers, where Hazel had been a very keen dancer and Committee member. She danced in demonstrations, played music, was the one who made and put up the decorations for the Staplers' dances, and her cake making, for the interval refreshments, was legendary. I included in my dance programme some dances (Duke of Kent's Waltz, La Bastringue and Picking Up Sticks) using the P10 SIFD recording which Hazel had contributed to.

At her funeral, which took place on Monday 28th October, Cloudburst played some of Hazel's favourite music to play her into the church. Hazel was an active member of this Methodist church which she loved. After the service there was dancing and music playing at Hazel's wake. Some members of the SIFD band who were able to get to Barton-le-Clay (it being the day of St. Jude's storm) joined in the music. We felt that Hazel would have approved of the occasion and that she was with us in spirit.

Jill Bransby



Monthly SIFD Dance at Cecil Sharp House

The December SIFD dance at Cecil Sharp House is on Sunday 8th December 7pm -10pm and will be led by Jill Bransby who always has a lively and very enjoyable programme.

The first dance of 2014 is on Sunday 5th January and will be dances chosen by the SIFD Committee. It is traditional for those who have costumes to wear them to the January dance.

The other dates for 2014 are:

Sunday February 2nd - Workshop 2pm-6pm Dance 7pm-10pm

Sunday March 2nd - Dance 7pm-10pm

Sunday April 13th - Workshop 2pm-6pm Dance 7pm-10pm

Sunday May 11th - Dance 7pm-10pm

Saturday June 7th - Dance 7pm -10pm

Sunday September 7th - Dance 7pm-10pm

Sunday October 5th - Workshop 2pm-6pm Dance 7pm-10pm

Sunday November 9th - Dance 7pm-10pm *

Saturday November 29th - Workshop 2pm - 6pm

Sunday December 7th - Dance 7pm-10pm

* Please note that this date is a week later than that printed in the October news.

Anne Maddocks



above: Chloë Watson in Macedonian costume at the 2009 Zivko



Firfov party; above Joan Sach and friend, in Serbian costumes

Dance with the World Leaflets

Our three SIFD leaflets for 2013-2014 are now updated and ready for distribution.

The two **Dance With the World** leaflets (one for London only, the other for the rest of the UK) list all the SIFD's associated and affiliated groups and classes, and are very useful for handing out at demonstrations and displays, to anyone interested in joining a group or class, or wanting more information about the Society.

The "**Join Us!**" leaflet encourages new membership. It outlines the benefits of joining the Society, both for an individual or an affiliated group.

We really do need new members more than ever to keep the Society alive and healthy, so please consider at which events you could distribute some of these, along with the colourful SIFD advertising card. If you would like some leaflets and/or cards, please contact me or Jeanette Hull (mail@sifd.org).

Alison Scrimshaw alison.scrimshaw@gmail.com

5 South Rise, Carshalton, SM5 4PD 020 8395 1400



Eastbourne Festival 2-5 May 2014

The Festival Director (is Maureen and she can be contacted through the friendly booking office 01823 401271) has asked for details of stewards for next year's Festival as soon as possible. The deal is as follows:- "Total 15 hours stewarding/festival welcome desk = completely free ticket.

Stewards and others who are happy to do a little stewarding and pay for a ticket = free classroom camping.

If someone wants to do some stewarding but not as much as 15 hours and are happy to pay pro-rata that's fine - to be negotiated later.

The Festival needs International dancers to help at busy times on the front desk which will be in the corridor outside last year's chill out (shoe shop) room. Times needed: Friday 6.15-7.15 and 7.00-8.15; Saturday, Sunday and Monday 8.45-9.45; 1 person Monday afternoon."

Maureen needs to know: "Names of stewards as they want it to appear on their ticket. Who is sleeping in school and who is sharing with who for overnight safety reasons." Maureen wants to know before Xmas how many will be sleeping in the school.

If you can help at all, please let Rowena Martin know (including, as far as possible your preferences) so that a rota can be developed. Rowena can be contacted at 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ or 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com.

Rowena Martin



A Wee Note of Thanks for the Ursu Romanian Weekend.

At long last I managed a full weekend of dancing!! Certainly a super one too. It was extra nice to have the ever present example of perfect style, Marius and Maria, as both never stopped dancing. The often longer than usual repetitions of the dance to make sure it had all really registered meant that it felt like non stop dancing all day and that is what I really enjoy. Every teacher has their own style, personality and delights and that is part of the fun. Variety really is the spice of life. Such a long time since I wandered round the Camden Market area too – even more of those delightful equine sculptures and such a fantastic atmosphere - even in the pouring rain a delight. Just as well I had brought different clothes for Balkanplus though; it was spectacular with repeats of the day's programme and a very lively performance from the exuberant Tanec group, led by the charismatic Dragan, with music from Ivan gaida, Angel kaval, Diana accordion and then the amazing singing of the delightful sisters Pirinka & Zdrvka. Nick & Liz provided all sorts of extras including the lap top recording from a festival in Romania. ALL pure delight – except for the usual moan about Trefusis – never any real circulating FRESH air to breathe; even with the back doors and windows open, but the on tap boiling water throughout the day was GREAT!! Huge thanks to Brian, Nick & Liz for all the organisation and extras. Especial cheers for the Bulgarian performances and excellent workshops from Marius & Maria. A really enjoyable weekend!

Diki Gleeson

Tessera

In a recent edition of SIFD News it was mentioned that our new band 'Tessera' has been booked for next year's Eastbourne Festival. As most of you will not have heard of us I thought I'd send in something to identify who we are.

The band consists of Maya Buckley (Clarinet, Kaval, Recorder), Clyde Olliver (Accordion and Vocals), Marion Nieuwenhuizen (Percussion and Vocals) and Mike Machin (Violin, Pontic Lyra, Vocals).



In the run-up to Eastbourne we will be playing for a day of dances taught by Marion and Clyde at Woolavington Village Hall, Somerset on Saturday 15th February, 2014 (full details to come from the Kalamos group).

We will also play during the evening dance between Bianca de Jong's courses in Manchester and Calver on Saturday February 5th, 2014.

Mike Machin

Letters

I am afraid that Caroline was mistaken in her response to Bob Macdonald's letter. The musician for the Sunday dances in the early 1950's was Mourie Pfeffer, who was in fact Austrian. Cliff Beck came along to a dance sometime about 1951 on his way home from a YHA weekend and was immediately hooked on both the music and dancing. He purchased a Hoener melodian and started to learn how to play it, helped a lot by Mourie. Soon they were playing together for dances. Interestingly, neither could read music; both played by ear. Older dancers can recognise a Mourie recording by the "twiddly bits" which he inserted into the tune. Regards,

Roy "Oscar" Haycock



Apropos the letter from Caroline in reply to Bob Macdonald, it is also quite likely that the accordionist remembered by Bob was Mourie Pfeffer, who often played melodeon at the Inns of Court in the 50s and 60s when I used to dance there. Mourie, I believe, was Jewish, of German or Austrian descent, and he moved to Manchester in the early 70s just before Jean and I moved to Harrogate. We've not heard of him for a few years now, but it is to be hoped that he's still amongst us. Another melodeon player some will remember was Harry Decaux, who used to play for Harrow Green Group around that time. However, we do heartily agree that our old friend Cliff is greatly missed. Thank you, Caroline, for reminding us of old friends from the days of our youth!

Ian & Jean Willson



In Bob Macdonald's letter in the October News he mentions "an Austrian man who played the accordion (and could he ever play!)" and I immediately thought of Mourie Pfeffer, who used to play for many of our dances in the 1950s. His playing of his button accordion was irresistible. He was just as proficient on his harmonica (mouth organ), which was ideal for him to play and lead a lively impromptu hora whenever the opportunity arose, and wherever we happened to be. Happy memories.

Charles Collingwood

Jill Bransby has kindly sent in the following information about Bravade:

Bravade from the Netherlands

Dance reconstructed by Dutch band 'De Perelaar' after a form originally described in Playford, called 'Argeers' (1650). (Cecil Sharp, The English Country Dance Book, Parts 3, p.51.)

Formation: circle of couples with man on the inside, face l.o.d (anticlockwise), hold inside hands. (Can be danced as described below as a mixer dance.)

Figure 1.

A MUSIC Bars

1.2 starting with outside feet (man L and woman R) walk four steps forward

3.4 turn to face partner, hold hands in a 'w' position and do two pas-de-bas steps in l.od. and against l.o.d.

5.6 repeat measure 1-2 of figure 1 again along l.o.d.

7.8 take two hands again and do a 'pancake turn' away from l.o.d..
Finish facing clockwise

9.16 repeat measure 1-8 in opposite direction (clockwise)

Figure 2.

B MUSIC 1-2 4 gallops towards centre of circle, in ballroom hold

3-4 4 gallops away from centre of circle

5-8 4 turning polka steps along l.o.d.

9.12 repeat measure 1-4 of figure 2

13.14 2 turning polka steps in l.o.d.

15.16 partners turn away from each other. Woman turns

R. with 4 steps in place, man turns L. and makes a larger circle to end one place backwards in a circle.

Start dance with a new partner.



Bravade

Intro: Last 4 bars
Fast

Holland

8 3 Am E7 Am 3 E

14 D E7 Am E

Am E Am E7 Am E7 Am

Play ad lib - slow down on the very last 3 bars

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

As the Scots are famous for their New Year celebrations the music for **Petronella** will be published next month. (Your response, please, by the **15th December** for the January News).

Ed.



Christmas Kolo

December 14th 2.00 – 5.00pm. ‘Christmas Kolo’ - an afternoon of accessible dances from the former Yugoslavia, many from Ken Ward’s old repertoire. Dances led by Frank Dowling, with live music from Mike and Clyde.

Venue: Hurworth Grange, Hurworth Place, Darlington DL2 2BN.
Cost: £7.00, pay on the door. For more information visit mikemachinmusic.wordpress.com or email clyde.olliver@hotmail.co.uk

Clyde Olliver

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 DECEMBER

- S.I **Sun. 8 SIFD DANCE** at Cecil Sharp House, Jill Bransby
- S.I **Fri. 13 BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with music by Dunav
8pm at Church House, Wood St, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW £6 includes
food and wine. Info. Brian 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com
- Sat. 14 CHRISTMAS KOLO** Darlington, see page 17
- S.I **Sat. 14 BALKANPLUS** see page 7.
- S.I **Fri. 20 RAINMAKERS CHRISTMAS PARTY** 8-11 pm at St.
Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £2.50 on the
night. MC Jill Bransby. All welcome. Please bring a plate of food to
share. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210)
- S.I **Fri. 20 – Sun. 22 DANCING AT DUNFORD:** Dunford House,
Midhurst, Sussex with Janet Woolbar and Philip and Brenda
Steventon. Further details from Dot Bradbury 020 8540 3464.
- S.I **Sat. 28 MARION NIEUWENHUIZEN IN NORTH NORFOLK**
Dance workshop in Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham NR21
7LG. 11.00 - 16.30. £12.50 in advance, £15 on the door. For bookings
and further details please contact Dawn : 01328 856582
dawnwakefield@btinternet.com
- Sat. 28 TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall
(junction of B2104 & B2247) 10.15 for 10.30 - 4.30. £8 (half day £5).
Bring CDs or tapes and lead your dance(s). Shared lunch, drinks
provided. Rowena: 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- S.I **Sun. 29 W MIDS BRANCH CHRISTMAS TEA DANCE** 2.30 –
5.15 at Dorridge Village Hall, Grange Rd, Dorridge, Solihull B93 8QA
(near M42 Jn 4 / M40 Jn 16 and Dorridge Station) MC Maggie K with
the Heart of England Band. Bring cakes etc. £5 on the door. More info
from Maggie: margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk or 0797-464-9311





Girls from the Bognor Regis group ready for Lasske Vanocne kolo.



*All material for the January issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor **in writing** by **15th December**.*

*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.*