

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING



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

The front cover (from 1976) was by Lesley Boorer. It shows the SIFD badge; with costumes, clockwise from top centre, German, German, Estonian, Austrian, French, Yugoslav, Swedish and Swedish. **Ed.**



After 53 years will the 2015 Summer School be the last ?

Do you want Summer Schools to continue? If so, what are you going to do about it?

After the 2012 summer school the current team announced that the next one would be the last they could run. An appeal was made for people to come forward to take over, preferably to work alongside us for 2015. This would allow a new team to know how the system runs and give them a base to build on for the future. Only one person volunteered; unless we can get a team together it won't happen, and an event which has played a vital part in the life of the SIFD will pass into history.

The summer courses at Swansea were set up by Jack Richardson to widen the repertoire of the SIFD by inviting teachers from abroad to pass on their dances. There are a number of teachers who teach dances from the Balkans, but the summer school is still the best source of new material for those who enjoy dances from a wide variety of countries. A further advantage is the opportunity provided for members from all parts of Britain and overseas to get together socially and share their repertoires.

If you want to see the summer school continuing but are hesitant about what it involves and what skills you might need, please get in touch with one of the present team.

Perhaps you feel the Summer School has had its day. If this is so we should celebrate the 2015 one as a grand finale.

Dorien Bates, Peter & Jill Bransby, Roger Sturge, Janet Woolbar



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jun. 7 DOINA EASTERN EUROPEAN DANCE GROUP**, 3-5pm
Victoria Embankment Gardens
- S.I **Jun. 14 BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Emily Nisbet
- S.I **Jul. 29-Aug. 4 DANCE BY THE SEA!** see page 12
- Aug. 22-25 WILLINGDON IFDG MINI FESTIVAL** of
International and English Folk Dance, Circle Dance and singing at
Plumpton College near Lewes. £160 full board. Contact Rowena
Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ; 01323 503991 or
rowenahmartin@hotmail.com.
- Aug. 23-30. 7 NIGHT INTERN'L FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by
Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing in the morning and evening. After-
noons free at HF Holidays, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire, BD23 4AA.
Details ring HF on 0845 470 7558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Sep. 27 BALKAN DAY COURSE** with Marion Nieuwenhuizen at
Nutbrook IFDG. Greenwood Community Centre, Toton, Nottingham,
NG9 6LN, (Note: new venue). 10.30 am - 4.00 pm; £8, half day £5.
For further information: 0115 917 1831, gill.morrall@ntlworld.com; no
prebooking needed.
- S.I **Oct. 18 SIFD WMIDS BRANCH ISRAELI DAY WORKSHOP**
with Adrian Pointon at Dorridge Village Hall, Grange Rd, Dorridge,
Solihull B93 8QA (near M42 Jn 4 / M40 Jn 16 and Dorridge Station)
Cost for the day (half-day): SIFD members £12 (£7) Non-members
£15 (£9) More details from Maggie Kaye: 0797-464-9311 or
margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk
- S.I **Nov.15-16 BALKANPLUS CAUCASIAN WORKSHOPS** with
Tineke and Maurits van Geel at Cecil Sharp House. The weekend
includes the Dunav 50th Anniversary Party. For full details visit
www.balkanplus.org.uk or phone Maureen on 01473 272256 or Brian
on 01992 582717

Nov.22-23 CAUCASIAN DANCE WORKSHOP: Lambley Village Hall, Catfoot Lane, Nottinghamshire NG4 4QF. Tineke & Maurits van Geel £45 which includes 9 hours teaching, drinks and refreshments. To book, send a cheque payable to 'Kilikia Dances for Armenia' to Chrisandra, 16 Moore Road, Mapperley, Nottingham. NG3 6EF. Tel. 0115 9554962 or Chrisandra@tesco.net



*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.*



A Hawk and A Hacksaw

On Wednesday 7 May, 7.30pm, at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall. The BBC Concert Orchestra are performing a concert with folk duo A Hawk and A Hacksaw where they will be exploring the music of eastern Europe.

A Hawk and A Hacksaw have toured and collected folk music extensively in eastern Europe, and they will be performing folk music from Romania as well as Hungary and Turkey plus the orchestra will perform music by Ligeti and Bartók.

Information on the concert can be found on the Southbank Centre website here: <http://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whatson/edge-of-sound-82756?dt=2014-05-07>



“Falling Ceilings and Collapsing Floors”

the Saga of the Bromley U3A Dance group

Since its inception in 1997 the Dance Group has had several homes. After a short while in the Parish Church outbuilding we moved to St Luke’s Church Hall in Raglan Road. One day an emergency message came down the Phone Cascade that the ceiling had fallen down in the hall so we had to move on.

Our next home was the Scout Hall at Bromley Crown. It was much smaller but had a little kitchen and we were the sole occupants. Over the years we noticed cracks appearing in the walls and over the months the floor developed a definite tilt. This meant that, when we danced in a circle, at one end of the room we were rushing downhill while at the other end we struggled to climb up again. We got used to this, and to the non-locking ladies’ lavatory and temperamental heating. We celebrated the Queen’s Jubilee with a costume party.

However, by October 4th 2012 the whole floor had dropped away from the skirting board, and several floorboards had become unstable. When two dancers tripped over a loose board we had to call it a day. The outcome is that we now have a new venue at St Mark’s Church Hall Westmoreland Road at Bromley South.

It is a real luxury for us to meet in a hall with a good kitchen, a safe floor and locking lavatories. The repertoire of dances is increasing and I am supported by a bevy of experienced dancers from Bromley International – Shirley Rogers, well known to veteran SIFD members, and Les Wallace, lead the group when I am away.

In June we held our traditional Cream Tea in our new hall. Despite poor weather there was an abundance of strawberries, scones, jam and clotted cream. Two new members appeared and one wrote afterwards “Thank you so much for inviting me to yesterday’s dance session, I did enjoy it very much, I have never met such a very friendly group of people and everyone so happy and enjoying themselves.” Of course we did do some dancing too.

Now we are settled at St Mark's. Because the venue is easy to reach by public transport we are oversubscribed, so now have a waiting list. I continue as main "tutor" for this group as I can see that it brings a happy social experience for some who feel lonely and isolated.

A comment from a class member –

“I feel after an afternoon dancing my spirits are lifted.”

A good raison d'être!

Fiona Howarth



Monthly SIFD Dance at Cecil Sharp House

SIFD monthly dance at Cecil Sharp House -
Sunday 11th May 7pm - 10pm £8

The SIFD Band will be choosing their favourite music and leading the dance on 11th May so we can expect an evening of lovely music and a wide range of dance styles.

The dance in June is on Saturday 7th and will be led by Naomi Ryder.

Anne Maddocks



Balkanplus

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 10th May at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.

MC for the evening will be Fiona Howarth.

Admission £5.

Maureen Felton



After the thirteenth

A sequel to the article in March Magazine

Attempts to cancel the April dance were shouted down at the dance in March, so I started to assemble a contingency list of dances on CD. The one bright prospect was that I thought Martin Butler, previous leader of the band, would be able to come. Jinxes abounded during the run-up period, one being that my complete Broadband was lost so I couldn't communicate with Martin to discuss the programme. Our first/only discussion was on the morning of 13th.

That evening at 7 there were Caspar, John, Alison, Helen and Dorien ready for set-up, plus the remnants of the Swedish course. A handful of dancers were draped round the walls and the band now comprised Martin, Barbara the lovely flute player, Naren on hand for percussion and virtuoso effects and Caspar wielding the bass.

The full number of bodies in the room rose to 26 at one point, and most people joined in all the dances. John Walford kindly took on the CD player – What A Star!! He had to change CD for each dance, and when the next Jinx reared its head – a disc that would not play on the equipment - he found the dances on other discs where possible. We alternated small sets for band and CD, with swift “scribbling through” of steps. Highlights included Waltz from Vinon, Orijent, Reiach Tapuach and a wonderful long set of the Helicopter dance with plenty of room for the “blades” to swing round.

The Martin Combo was a revelation. I have never heard Kan Badarom, Turning by Threes and others better played. Our feet and spirits were lifted. The musicians said they had loved joining in so many of the dances too.

Grateful thanks to Alison and Helen for the refreshments, to Dorien for manning the door, to Alan for helping me cope with all the traumas and to the merry band of dancers who tackled unfamiliar dances and old war horses with equal enthusiasm. In the end – a great evening.

Fiona Howarth

Irene Fyffe

Further to Joan and Simon's appreciation of Irene Fyffe in the April News mention should be made of her editorship of the SIFD News from its early days until April 1961. The Archives do not have issues from its first years and so I cannot be certain that she was in fact the original editor, although this is my impression. She was enthusiastic in this work, so much so that she wrote many of the articles herself when there was a lack of contributions submitted by members.

Memories are stirred by the photograph of Irene and Ken wearing the Opoczno Group's Polish costumes: hers from the Opoczno region, his from Kraków. After the break-up of that group Ziutek kept the costumes for his unnamed SIFD Polish Group (which included Irene & Ken and Joan & Simon) and the Opoczno ones were worn for the Lubelski suite of dances in the Society's **See How They Dance** show at the Albert Hall when I joined that group.

These costumes were subsequently inherited by Betty Harvey's Polish Group, later named Jacy Tacy. The girls' Opoczno costumes were considered uncomfortable to dance in since they were made, not of the traditional heavy woollen material, but of rather stiff fabric dubbed "deck-chair canvas" (in somewhat subdued tones, predominantly green, trimmed with black velvet ribbon) and which had no movement. Nevertheless they gave an acceptable impression in black and white when they were worn by members of the Opoczno Group who took part in an abridged version of the ballet **Coppélia** made by Margaret Dale for television. The film included a shot of Irene walking alone, isolated from the rest of the crowd and filling the screen, and wearing this costume but with more appropriate footwear.

Tony Latham





Folk Dance Group from Germany



at an international festival in 1935

Dance By The Sea! 2014

Tuesday 29th July - Monday 4th August in Torquay (3 or 6 nights)

Places are still available for the Summer Residential Balkan Dance holiday in Torquay. Guest teachers are Turgay Onatli (Turkish folk dance) and Dimitar Petrov (Bulgarian folk dance). They will bring a wide variety of music and dances from the various ethnographic regions of Turkey and Bulgaria. Turgay assures me that, even if you think perhaps Turkish dance isn't your cup of tea, you should give his dances a try. He thinks he can change your mind! Mitko's English has improved by leaps and bounds since he was last here. He is a wonderfully talented dancer and has an excellent selection of dances and music, and an in-depth knowledge of his subject.

If you would prefer to do only Turkish or only Bulgarian, please ask. This is possible, provided that we have a few takers. We have added some optional activities to the programme:- "Culture Corners" where you can learn about the different ethnographic regions, dance styles, costumes, music etc. of Turkey and Bulgaria. There will be singing, including some songs taught by Turgay and Mitko. Maya Buckley will arrange Music Making for Instrumentalists. There will also be opportunities to review dances from Turgay and Mitko's previous courses (your selection). Participants are invited to share their favourite dances, songs or music in the free time if they wish, and the wonderful ballroom with sprung floor is available at all times. So you can make the holiday as busy or as relaxed as you wish. For the early part of the week, dance tuition will be in the morning, whilst at the weekend (Friday to Monday) you can choose half days or full days of dancing. The cost of the 6-night dance course is £90 (half days) or £125 (including full days at the weekend), and it includes the two course CDs with good quality recordings from Turgay and Mitko.

Friends and family are most welcome to come and enjoy a very reasonably priced summer holiday on the English Riviera. The Livermead House Hotel with its high standards of service and cuisine, award-winning chef, and heated outdoor swimming pool, is in a great location overlooking the sea on the south-west coast. 6 nights ensuite full board costs £370 and there are special prices for children.

Non-dancers are welcome to join daily walks with Phil. They can also join the singing, music-making, culture corners and the evening social dances. You won't have to go far to enjoy stunning coastal scenery with dramatic sea cliffs and picturesque villages with thatched cottages. There are plenty of places to visit and attractions, such as a boat trip across the bay to the quaint fishing harbour of Brixham for just £2 return.

If the 6-night holiday is not possible for you, there are also options to attend the first 3 nights (mid-week) or the last 3 nights (weekend). Other options are also possible, for example, 3 nights as a dancer and 3 nights as a non dancer etc. Cost: 3 nights full board from £195; dance course £50.

On Wednesday 30th July from 10am - 5pm there will be an Instrumental Day with musician Maya Buckley. There will also be an instrumental session on Tuesday afternoon starting at 3pm. All types of instruments are welcome. Maya will teach a selection of tunes to popular Balkan dances and you are invited to play for part of the evening social dance if you wish. You will also have an opportunity to see Turgay playing authentic Turkish instruments - Zurna, Saz and Darvul (big drum). There is no additional charge for hotel residents staying on the "Dance by the Sea" holiday. Non-resident musicians are welcome and the cost is £30. This includes the optional Tuesday afternoon session and the "Culture Corners" on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. (NB Pre-booking for non-resident participants is essential). Maya will arrange further instrumental sessions later in the week to suit the wishes of those staying in the hotel.

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



What a Joyous weekend!!

The annual weekend of dance with a visiting teacher organised chiefly by Julie Korth and Marina Wolstenholme (not forgetting all sorts of quiet, help like Mary O'Mahony and her special tea trolley helpers) is a prebooked date on the calendar for Sula and I. Because of a last minute accident, last year's had to be cancelled – postponed to 2014, so we arrived in extra expectant good spirits, which soon were exploding joyously at the wonderfully warm welcome - and this did not flag the entire weekend. Even though I am so atrocious at remembering people's names it made no difference – smiles, laughter and great enjoyment were the order of the day – both days, so I thought I just must for once pay tribute to our 'Manchester Family.'

Yes we immediately recognised each other from years ago at that delightful residential dance course, which Bianca led on the Isle of Wight, where I successfully converted a college friend of mine to international folk dance. Bianca's huge vitality, enthusiasm and genuine interest in everyone's comments, laughter, also sensitively not missing a chance of encouraging comment or request that someone was hesitating about voicing. It was brilliant that effortlessly Bianca was always there as a moving permanent reminder and it was noticeable how wholeheartedly she danced the evening away on Saturday night – always full of beans, ready to dance and laugh.

The very special added attraction to Saturday evening was the wonderful music from Tessera – that fabulous group consisting of Mike Machin (it was delightful dancing to just his vocals), Clyde Olliver leading inspiringly on squeezebox, Marion Nieuwenhuizen so multi talented from drum to guitar and the fantastic woodwinds from Maya Buckley. They made a huge difference to the mood, enjoyment and success of the evening. The extra surprise delight from Bianca's talented old friend Lyubinka Beserov singing 2 striking Bulgarian songs added a unique 'extra' too. And I haven't even mentioned the lovely members like Charlotte Kinross, Linda Shaw etc., who led a group of dances or Ian Willson solo piano accordion so that there was limited reliance on discs.

What with the sunshine and as it was a little later than usual there were already so many wonderful gay spring flowers waving a welcome along every road. Particularly from Wigan to Culver there were so many lovely grassed areas brimming with wild flowers as well as bulbs colourfully dancing in the breeze, then the views as we neared our destination – all a real treat.

HUGE GREAT THANKYOU TO EVERYONE from BIANCA and the enchanting performers on Saturday evening, ALL the welcoming local friends, not forgetting all the hardworking organising ones, plus the few other travellers (like Jackie Charbit-M. & Cathy Meunier etc. (alphabetical order!) hopefully see more of those next year – it really is a joyful, happy relaxed weekend of dancing and friendship.

Diki Gleeson



Dimitris Triandifyllidis in Purley

Last Sunday Dimitris Triandifyllidis taught an excellent day of dances from Eastern Roumelia in Purley. His way of teaching was very accessible and thorough and his use of English was excellent. As many of the dances were familiar to a lot of the people attending (Zonoradikos, Baituska etc.) he was able to concentrate particularly on how to dance in the style appropriate to the region. He also shared some very interesting observations about how he has seen the steps of dances changing from one generation to the next while the style and overall form of the dance remains recognisably the same.

The day was very well attended with a much higher proportion of men and younger dancers than is often the case. Many thanks to Dromena UK (contact Cherry Allen) for putting on such a great day.

Mike Machin



80th Birthday Thanks

May I through the SIFD News thank all those people who have sent me congratulations on reaching my 80th birthday?

I have been quite overwhelmed by the greetings I have received. I have got 40 individual cards and a huge collation of a card, organised mainly by Mary O'Mahony, with a great number of greetings from people all over the United Kingdom. For those people unable to see it, on the front are six photographs and greetings in silver on a gold background, then, inside and on the back are over seventy sticky-back labels, and more photos, sent by many people. It was all quite overwhelming and I was very touched that so many folk took the trouble to remember me. Thank you all.

Philip Lloyd, Barlow Group,



Dear Janet,

I always enjoy reading the SIFD News and look forward to it coming through my letterbox each month but I must write to say how much I particularly enjoyed the April issue, which I thought was excellent.

I found all the articles very interesting, full of information about events, music, group activities, photos, members' experiences and opinions (although I was puzzled by Gill Wakley's comments on "gender specificity(?) as a condition of booking")!

The article on Halsway Manor weekends, the references to the dances Jota Aragonesa, Arku Dantza, Baston Dantza and Makil Tikki, the photos of people I knew and the group photo taken by Barry Shapcott all bring back happy memories and remind me why I have devoted so much of my life to folk dancing.

As I am now a "past my sell-by date" dancer and no longer participate, I do value being kept in touch with what is happening now, so thank you very much Janet and Dalila and all those who contribute by sending in material to print.

Yours,

Lily Avery

A Photo seen so often....

Irene Keywood kindly sent us a clip of Judith's photo and article in the SIFD News. As my wife Ružica and I were members of the Živko Firfov Group from 1972 to 1983, we are able to answer some (but by no means all!) of Judith's questions.

Here's our bit of the story:

Ružica is in the photo standing 6th from the right. She is wearing a costume from Bitola, Macedonia which she bought when the Živko Firfov Group took part in the folk dance festival there in August 1978. Adorning the apron is a metal belt from the Group's own costume collection. On her right, i.e. 7th from the right in the photo, is a young man who was then a native of Skopje, Macedonia. Unfortunately, we have no note of nor memory of his name - perhaps other members of the Group might know him. He was a visitor to the Group for several months. He is wearing a Skopje costume from the Group's collection. We have not been in touch with him since then. Both my wife Ruzica and the unnamed young man from Macedonia were at that time Yugoslav, in terms of their nationality.

The Zivko Firfov Group termed itself a "Yugoslav dance group". In view of the later disintegration of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, it's all too easy to forget (as indeed I did!) that, at the time the picture was taken, it was indeed a relevant factor. Ruzica and the guy from Skopje were invited to be in it because, inter alia, they were native Yugoslavs. The only other person we recognize in the photo is Janice Wrench, standing 5th from the right, dressed in Polish costume. She was also a member of the Zivko Firfov Group - in fact it was she who originally invited Ruzica and me to join!

As the position of the Houses of Parliament indicates, the photo was shot on the Albert Embankment outside King's College.

"Do they still dance?" asks Judith. In our case, the answer is no. I joined my wife in Belgrade in 1983 and have lived there ever since. The only time we dance is at a wedding, or when we return to London and revisit the Group!

I hope this little bit of information is of interest, and hope you can track down the rest of it.

John White

Avramenca

A Fast **B** Romania

6
E A E A D
H A E C E A
E A A E A

Play each section X 4

Written from the Swansea Course Tape

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



We have no information about **Avramenca** - let's hope for better luck next month when the music for **Ludo Mlado** from Macedonia will feature in the June issue - so share whatever you know with us. **Ed.**



Turgay Onatli (see page 12)provided this picture - it is the oldest known representation of Turkish folk dancers.

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 MAY

Fri.2nd - Mon.5th EASTBOURNE FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL
01823 401271. £90 weekend ticket.

- S.I **Fri.2nd - Mon.5th 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

Wednesday 7th A HAWK AND A HACKSAW at Southbank Centre's Queen Elizabeth Hall. 7.30pm, The BBC Concert Orchestra are performing a concert with folk duo A Hawk and A Hacksaw

- S.I **Saturday 10th BALKANPLUS** - see page 7

Saturday 10th 'FEST NOZ' An afternoon workshop followed by a night of 'Fest Noz' dancing from Brittany to live music with Triette & Etoiles. £7 adults/£5 concessions Workshop: 3pm - 6pm Bring & Share Buffet: 6pm - 7pm 'Fest Noz' dancing: 7.30pm- 10.45pm Enquiries: starrysuzanne@yahoo.co.uk *Star & Shadow, Stepney Bank, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 2NP (opposite The Tanners)

- S.I **Friday 16th LIZ MELLISH & NICK GREEN**, hosts: Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group. Dances from Eastern Europe; 8-10.30pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £5.00 for the evening. Details from Mark (01462 454210).

- S.I **Saturday 24th DAY OF MOSTLY RUSSIAN DANCES** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall nr Eastbourne BN24 5EH. 10.30-4.30 £10 Packed lunch, drinks provided. Booking appreciated: Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com.

- S.I **Saturday 31st BALATON HUNGARIAN DANCE GROUP** 3-5pm, Victoria Embankment Gardens



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