

The monthly newsletter of the Society for International Folk Dancing



NEWS

EVENTS

ARTICLES

INFORMATION

**Registered Charity
Number 284509**

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SIFD NEWS

🌿 December 2014 🌿

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For the packaging, posting and electronic distribution of the News throughout 2014 and also for printing all of the colour issues - three cheers for Dalila - hip.hip....

There wasn't really a response to my request for Christmassy photos - but perhaps you didn't have any - so - visually I have made this issue about children - as Christmas is their special time. Now for really advanced thinking: **this week or this month - take some photos** at Christmas parties etc. so that when I ask next year you will have something to send in.

Christmas Greetings

Ed.



Summer School

Firstly I would like to say a very big thankyou to Dorien and her team for all the work they have done recently to rescue the summer school from disaster. (*see page 5*) Their quick and decisive actions in re-negotiating with Swansea and with the teachers mean we still have the opportunity to meet each other and dance for a week this summer. Please share the news, with people you know who may not be members, but who you think would enjoy a week learning from excellent folk dance teachers and having fun dancing.

Jeanette Hull



A Very Busy Dancing Month

I'd also like to thank all the people who have organised dance events in the last few weeks. I have met and watched and danced with hundreds of people! At Dance Around the World, Cathy Meunier's day at Hursley, Scandia's evening dance and concert in Camden, the SIFD Sunday Dance with Phil and Brenda, Tineke and Maurits van Geel's weekend course and Dunav's 50th party - It's all been wonderful, and I hope all of you have had time for lots of dancing too.

Jeanette Hull

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan.10 BALKANPLUS MC** will be the Barnet Group
- S.I **Feb. 4–9 RIVIERADANCE! 2015** Residential Balkan folk dance holiday with Yves Moreau (Bulgarian and Balkan), Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion (Romanian). Plus: Int. folk dances with France Bourque-Moreau, 5 nights full board, award winning chef, Torquay, English Riviera. £465 (full-days) or £395 (half-days) residential dance course; £305 for non-dancing friends & family. please contact Cathy Meunier email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com website: send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX or www.balkanfolkdance.org
- S.I **Feb. 7 BALKAN INSTRUMENTAL DAY COURSE** with musician Maya Buckley. 10am - 5pm & 8:30pm – 10:30pm Livermead House Hotel, Torquay. £30 (no charge for residents on the Rivieradance! 2015 holiday). All instruments welcome. Instrumentalists are invited to play for part of the social dance on Saturday evening. Resources for the course will be provided in advance. Pre-booking is essential. For details see above.
- S.I **Mar. 7–8 ERIK BENDIX** teaches dances from Greece, Macedonia, Albania and Bulgaria in Sheffield. Weekend dance course £35. 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. Website www.balkanfolkdance.org.
- S.I **Mar. 21 RUSSIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** with Maggie O'Regan at St. Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester. From 11.a.m. - 5.p.m followed by a 'Bring and share' supper and a social dance from 6.30 - 9.00 p.m. £12 (£10 for SIFD members) Contact Mary O'Mahony 0161 881 0955 maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk
- S.I **Apr.24-27 GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Friday evening to Monday afternoon), near Alcester, Warwickshire. International Folk Dancing and other varied dancing, music, handbells, singing, walking and cycling. Information: see website at www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.

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.

SIFD Summer School - Change of Date!

now July 25th to August 1st 2015

Karin Bellaart - will now be teaching the General partner and non-partner courses.

Marius & Maria Ursu - teaching a course of Romanian dances.

Henning Christensen & Pia Nygaard will teach Danish folk dance.
phone 07905 603655 for details or website: www.sifdsummerschool



SIFD Day Courses 2015

1st Feb: Pontic (Greek) Dances : Jackie Charbitt Middleton and Mike Machin: Dances and music collected at a recent specialist course in Greece - more next month

13th June: Frank Dowling

11th October : Dances from the Summer School

13th December : tba - it will be North or West European



The Barlow group earlier this year; given all the children Julie Korth has introduced to dance - she can be counted as an honorary child.

News from the

Rainmakers International Dance Group Letchworth.

Like most established groups we struggle with numbers so, this year (2014), we held a few events – in January we had a French evening with Danseherts (local French group) and danced to the live music of the Danseherts musicians. In February we held an Israeli evening with Martin Butler and Adrian Boddy (from Cloudburst) providing the music. In May Nick Green and Liz Mellish shared their great knowledge of Romanian dances and folklore with us. In October Maggie O'Regan taught us a good selection of Balkan and Eastern European Dances. For the last two events we thank the SIFD for sponsoring the teaching. It's good to have the stimulus of new dances.

In early November we held our 38th Anniversary Dance and had a lively evening dancing to the music of Cloudburst, on this occasion provided by Martin Butler, Adrian Boddy and Narendra Kotiyan. By the time you read this we will have held our AGM. The AGM papers show that we actually made money this year (instead of losing it in 2013), our average attendance has increased slightly and we have 2 new members. Hopefully we will continue to enjoy our weekly dancing for a bit longer - I would certainly miss it and the companionship of our group.

Jill Bransby



Monthly SIFD dance at Cecil Sharp House

7th December 7pm -10pm

The last dance for 2014 will be on Sunday 7th December and will be led by Jill Bransby.

The first dance for 2015 will be on Sunday 11th January and will be led by Jeannette Hull and the SIFD Committee

Anne Maddocks



Eastbourne International Folk Festival

1st-4th May 2015 - 40th Anniversary Year

Jan Knoppers & Richard van der Kooij will be presenting workshops themed as Eastern European, Western European and World dances. We also have Maggie O'Regan teaching Russian and Greek dances, Jill Bransby teaching "International Dancing for the Timid" and Dalila Heath teaching Armenian dances. The band, Maggie's Mix, will be playing for the evening dances.

The fine details are still being worked on, including a celebration of the 40th Anniversary.

There will, of course, be the usual wide selection of English and American events on offer as well. For full details see the EIFF website.

There is still room on our steward team for more volunteers. We would be glad to hear from you if you are able to exchange some of your time for a ticket. Our arrangements are flexible to maximise dancing preferences. Please contact Maureen on 01823 401271 if you can help. Booking is now well under way for the Festival. To get the Early bird discounted price, book before the 10th January which will save you £15. You can reserve tickets online at the Festival website www.eiff.org.uk, or download and post the form, or ring the friendly box office on 01823 401271. Payments by cheque or BACS.

Ron & Jean Wilks



Turkish Folk Dances with Turgay Onatli

Last summer in Torquay we enjoyed a wonderful selection of music and dances with Turgay Onatli. There is a surprising variety of styles of music and dance from Turkey (or "Anatolia"), and Turgay has plenty more to teach us. Here is a date for your diary: 12th - 13th September 2015 a weekend course of Turkish folk dancing with Turgay Onatli. Calver near Sheffield (Residential and non-residential options).

Cathy Meunier



Bulgarian children (old postcard)



*An Alaskan dancer from Sitka -
photo by Harry Phillips*



*Anna (my grand-daughter)
in Volendam. Ed.*



*Bolivian girls in Seville - see last
month's article.*



*Girls from the
Allenova School of dance*



*An old photo from Frances Horrocks
of boys dancing Oxdans - note the
instructions on the hand.*



*Norwegian girl at Llangollen - photo
by Ken Poyton.*



*Two Turkish boys photographed by
Jill Bransby also at Llangollen*

Dear Janet,

In 1956 the late Mike Lawrence wrote the following to the Harrow Green newsletter Fandango. I feel his observations regarding the origin of folk customs, the teaching of dances and written instructions may still be thought provoking today.

Roy Clarke

Dear Editor,

My Father, who was born in a village called Schlechino near Poznan, in Poland, often tells me little yarns about people he knew, years ago.

One story was about a man who was the local Ballad singer.

At one wedding celebration he was singing about a group of men who were engaged in a mild smuggling expedition into Prussia, when, something got up his nose and he sneezed;

Thereafter, the ‘wags’ who sang this song were careful not to omit the sneeze and it became part of the song.

One can imagine a group from Schlechino invited to the next village hearing the song performed sans sneeze and declaring “that’s not right, this is the right way” and so on.

It is surely the same way with dances. I think that we must accept the fact that many if not all national dances, are national in only the main character, and that they might quite easily vary from town to town or district to district in their execution, but what I fail to understand is, why we accept alterations and adjustments from would be experts as gospel, knowing, full well that if these same people come up with another version in six months time, we will probably accept it with the same reverence.

I have been away from the dancing for quite some time, and some of these alterations strike me as being without any logical basis.

When first learning Camel Rhineland, the last figure but one, known by most of us as the Quarrel figure, was explained to us as follows;-
“The first part of the diamond schottische movement is the quarrel, and the second part is the reconciliation, in which you greet your partner

with open arms prior to the shoulder waist hold. The clap coming halfway through the diamond schottische is the means of dashing the cause of the quarrel from your mind.” Now I find that the clap is on the last beat before the shoulder waist hold, spoiling (for me) the lovely flowing action of this movement. And all, presumably because someone spent a holiday in Norway. I only hope that no-one goes to a different part of Norway this year.

Then the dance Trojak, this dance has had a very mutilating time among us. It was first shown to us as a dance full of pretty figures, amusing figures, exciting figures complete with explanations of arm movements meant to depict the spreading of the seed and the fulfilment of the harvest, etc. Then at approximately the time of the first Royal Albert Hall Festival of Dancing, the Polish Y.M.C.A. members showed us the ‘correct’ version of Trojak. This was so hideous and fantastic, that even such uninhibited people as folk dancers usually are rejecting it within a few weeks. Now, coming back to folk dancing after my long absence, I find that from, the same source comes yet another ‘correct’ version of Trojak. I look forward to seeing the next.

Estonia too has not been left out, in Eide Ratas, the man’s arms are folded across the chest instead of being on hips, spoiling the flow of the movement, because it is thus in a book: if we are to take notice of every book we come across we will soon be following the style of the Ling Publications. The Mazurka step in Vasovienne will be changed to the exaggerated step so well demonstrated by Dr. Cyriax, as how not to do it.

The lovely music of Krakowiak has not been heard at Harrow Green for quite some time because the Polish Group has created a new version, which although very picturesque, bears in my humble opinion, as much resemblance to folk dancing as St. Pauls Cathedral.

By the way, I am sure that at least one of our members is convinced that it is only by oversight, that the E.F.D.S.S. do not mention a Prezetka finish to La Russe. Maybe as with the ballad singer of Schlechino, it will one day come to pass.

Dance Around The World

Although I was unable to spend the whole weekend at Cecil Sharp House I very much enjoyed the performances that were on offer on Saturday. I arrived just as Fiona Howarth was mustering dancers in her own inimitable fashion and managed to join in; On Bouge, the French group followed finishing with a joining-in dance. I had arrived with a plan to go to several workshops during the day, but found it increasingly difficult to tear myself away from Kennedy Hall and all the displays.

Sureya Hussein gave a hypnotic rendering of Turkish belly dancing, a photo of her with sword (*I can't help wondering how sharp it was*) that, along with photos of other groups that were so entertaining, will brighten future issues. I toyed with the idea of going downstairs for a Zivko Firfov workshop but decided not to risk missing Akhtamar - the Armenian group who gave a delightful display which included a delicate solo; they looked very young to me, but apparently they are between 18 and 25 years of age (*so their pics are disqualified this month on the grounds of old age*).

Other groups I watched were Doina - highly skilled and showing off their gorgeous costumes, an Indian Kathak dancer, clog dancers and the Hammersmith Morris Men (*more on them later.*) Then came the Maori Ngāti Rāana - with a spellbinding performance including hakas and a poi dance. More groups kept coming - Philippine dancers showing the Spanish influence - Hungarian dance and more beautiful costumes from Balaton - and the Lithuanian group Saduto (*their smallest/cutest member is pictured on the front page being very brave - his little chin was wobbling as he stood on the stage and looked out at us all*).

I had promised myself a look in at the Saduto workshop but somehow I got inveigled into a Morris workshop instead where a very keen, very fit young man put us through our paces...had us capering about waving arms at the wrong time (*maybe that was just me*)! and Morris dancing looks so easy.... and I had to stay and caper until the end.

Then as I was reluctantly about to leave Cecil Sharp House for home (*feeling as if I had done three workshops not just one*) -

I spotted a line of delightful children waiting to go onstage (*Svitanok - Ukrainian ? - one of the girls is pictured here and more of them on the back page*).

So much choice and not enough time - I'm sure that everyone who stayed to take part for the whole weekend had a wonderful time. The programme for the rest of the Festival was full of more and more diverse dance treats. ☀

There was an army of volunteers greeting, selling, bustling about, ironing out hiccups, filling in with impromptu dance sessions - and other things probably that we don't see - behind the scenes - I do hope they had time to enjoy it too. Well done Anne and the team.



Janet Douglas



☀ Dear Editor,

In the April 2014 edition there was an item about the Mistrin Czardas by Dal Sudwell of a Fleet Club. As a follow up I would like to point out that Beskydy Dancers who perform dances from the Czech Rep. and Slovakia have had the Mistrin Czardas in their repertoire for some years and in fact will be including it in their demonstration session at Dance Around the World at Cecil Sharp House on 26 October.

Gill Blyth
on behalf of Beskydy Dancers

Visit Armenia in 2015

from Tineke Van Geel

On my tours I attach great importance to a pleasant balance of travel time, sightseeing, relaxation and getting to know the real Armenia by using the many contacts I have developed through the years. After 23 successful tours in the past 10 years, 2 dance tours and 2 culture tours are planned for 2015.

Dance tours 1555 euros *

May 13th to 25th 2015

September 16th to 28th 2015

www.tinekevangeel.nl

Culture tours 1995 euros*

May 28th to June 12th 2015

October 1st to 16th 2015

www.armeniaholiday.com

(* for both tours flights can be booked from a number of European cities, tickets reserved by Tineke – Land-only prices available)



The Great Koprivshitsa Folklore Festival

7-9 August 2015

Travel with the British-Bulgarian Society, visitors to every festival since the 1980s.

For 2015 we offer either a 1 week tour 06-13 August, or just 3 days 06-09 August, both with accommodation options. Prices from £680 to £1,290. For more details visit our website: www.b-bs.org.uk Or email: ognian@balkaniatravel.com or phone Ognian: 020 7536 9400.

Balkania Travel, 79 College Road, Harrow, HA1 1BD.

ATOL 4465, IATA 9127839



Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 13th December at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Maggie O'Regan. Admission £5.

Maureen Felton

Eis Walzer

Austria

Intro

12 C7 F F C7

22 F Bb G7 F C7 F

37 B F C7 F

C7 F C7 F

Ad lib but finish

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Dear Janet,

At the start of the Barlow Group, Margery Latham, of fond memory, took a great interest in us and came several times to bring dances to extend our repertoire. One of these was **Eiswalzer** (one word, German language fashion), from Austria. The name is only because it has ice dance like movements, not because it was danced on ice.

It is a couple dance, starting in an open ballroom hold, facing LOD. Using outside feet, 4 slow steps FWD, one step per bar, then, keeping forward hands joined, turn to face opposite direction and do 4 more slow steps BWD, i.e. still travelling in LOD. Take close ballroom hold and do 8 Austrian waltz steps, turning. Repeat all.

Best wishes, **Philip Lloyd.**



The January issue will have **Siebenschritt** from Austria - does anybody dance it? Have you ever danced it? Do you know how it came into Wilf's Collection?

Answers on a postcard (or an email) in time for the next News - don't forget - **the deadline is the 15th December. Ed.**

WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- S.I **Sunday 7th MAGGIE O'REGAN IN BOGNOR REGIS:** a day of dance at Barnham Village Hall, nr. Bognor Regis PO22 0AX cost: £14 (£12 SIFD members) free tea, coffee etc. info: Janet 01243 265010
- S.I **Friday 12th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with Dunav Balkan Group. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW £6 including food and drink. For more details contact Brian on 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com
- S.I **Saturday 13th BALKANPLUS** - see page 14
- S.I **Sunday 28th BALKAN DANCE DAY WITH DALILA HEATH** 11am - 4.30pm Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham, North Norfolk. NR21 7LG Bookings and more information from Dawn 01328 856582 dawnwakefield@btinternet.com
- S.I **Monday 29th TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, nr Eastbourne BN24 5EH. 10.30-4.30. £8 (half day £5). Shared lunch, drinks provided. Bring own CDs. Rowena Martin 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com.



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

