



*SIFD NEWS*  
*April 2015*

Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West  
Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010  
email: *SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk*

Registered Charity Number 284509

SIFD Committee

Chair: Jeanette Hull 39 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4HJ  
07722 655481 *jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk*

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

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

Other Committee Members:

Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340 4683  
*caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk*

Mary O'Mahony 11 Hartington Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 8UZ  
01618 810955 *maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk*

Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN *richard@mellish.eu*  
0208 863 7807

John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67 8NU  
*j2ohn@yahoo.co* 01530 223957

Holly Payling 4 Hobart Walk, St Albans, AL3 6LS 07784 117599  
*hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*

Naomi Ryder 13 Maun House, 1 Dunn Street, Dalston, London E8 2DG  
*naomiryder@hotmail.co.uk* 07920 424575

Contact the SIFD at *mail@sifd.org*

I am very grateful to Roy Clarke for sending me the picture on the front cover by Lucile Armstrong entitled 'Jaleo de Xerez'; he reckons she did it between 1920 > 1935 i.e. before the civil war. It is one from a folio of Lucile's work of regional dances which the 'Paradores' produced some years ago. It is beautiful, what a talented lady she was, and not the only artist in the SIFD.

Going back to the early days of the Society and on through the years we have had many drawings from several talented members: Ady Ongania, Eddis Thomas, Caroline Thomas, Lesley Boorer and Anna Huston have all featured many times in the News. All have artistic merit and are well worth seeing again - but - don't let that stop you from sending me something new to grace our mag.

Answers from last month's puzzles:

Girls: A,F,H & K - Canary Islands. B,D,I & J - Northern Italy  
C,E,G & L - Finland

Boys: A,E,I & K - Macedonia. B,F,H & J - Brittany.  
C,D,G & L - Mallorca

The picture on the back page was taken at the SIFD 60th Anniversary Dance for children - maybe we could do another for the 70th ?

**Ed.**



## **Halsway SIFD Long Weekend 1-4 May**

Halsway Manor Somerset. A mixed holiday of walking, dancing and sightseeing in beautiful North Somerset International dancing each evening is led by Janet Woolbar. Most of us take the option to stay an extra night, on Monday for more dancing ...and to avoid Bank Holiday traffic. Full board - Fri. dinner to Mon. afternoon cream tea.

£215pp / +ensuite£21 pp/ +single occupancy supplement £20.....

....extra night special Monday £35/ + ensuite £5 please contact

Gordon Adie:-01872 260517 e-mail grdnadie@aol.com

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**May 1-4 EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL**  
Please contact Maureen on 01823 401271. or [www.eiff.org.uk](http://www.eiff.org.uk)

S.I **May 1-4. HALSWAY MANOR SIFD WEEKEND** see pages 3 & 8

S.I **May 9 BALKANPLUS MC** will be Fiona Howarth

**Jun. 13 DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE.** Join us in Calver Village Hall. Further details from Janet King (01629 57065 or [j.king194@btinternet.com](mailto:j.king194@btinternet.com)) or Greg Boyd (07810 181273 or [gregboyd99@aol.com](mailto:gregboyd99@aol.com)).

S.I **Jul.25-Aug.1 SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** see page 10 (07905 603655

**Aug 21-28 7 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCE COURSE** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing in the morning and evening. Afternoons free, at HF Holidays, The Longmynd, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6AG. For details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

S.I **Aug. 28-31 WILLINGDON IFDG ANNUAL MINI FESTIVAL** of International and English Folk Dance, Circle Dance and singing at Plumpton College nr Lewes, East Sussex. £160 full board. Contact Rowena Martin 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ; 01323 503991 or [rowenahmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenahmartin@hotmail.com).

S.I **Sep.19-20 BALKANPLUS ILIANA & TODOR WORKSHOPS** £70 (60) for the weekend; £40 (30) for the Saturday workshop only; £30 (25) for the Sunday workshop only. The party is open to all - cost £10 payable on the door. Tickets from Maureen Felton 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. with SAE and cheque payable to Balkanplus.

S.I **Oct. 25 MANX & WELSH DANCES WITH GEOFF WESTON** at Pulborough Village Hall, W.Sussex. RH20 2BP. £7 10:30am-3:30pm. Bring a picnic lunch. DIY Tea & Coffee available all day. Janet Douglas 01243 265010



*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.*

# **Eastbourne International Folk Festival**

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

Come and celebrate with us the 40th year of the Eastbourne International Folk Festival! More than 200 dancers have already booked.

On the International side, 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 as well as Jill's workshops.

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

There is still room on our steward team for some more volunteers. Maureen would be glad to hear from you if you are able to exchange some of your time for a ticket or part thereof. Our arrangements are flexible to maximise dancing preferences. Please contact Maureen on 01823 401271 if you can help.

You can reserve tickets online at the Festival website [www.eiff.org.uk](http://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**



## **Machol Europa 2015**

9th -14th August - University of Warwick

Featuring: Rafi Ziv, Ofer el Fassi, Shmulik Gov-ari, Ilai Szpiezak, Dado Kraus, Mashe Telem and more.

Israeli Dance Inst. Suite 8, Time House, 56 b Crewys Rd. London NW2 2AD. Tel: 0208 209 3155 [www.idi.org.uk](http://www.idi.org.uk)

**Susan Chetwynd**

## Dance day with Dalila



In December Dalila came to delight us with a whole feast of Armenian dances. The varied selection included old traditional dances, some choreographed dances and modern party dances. She provided us with plenty of interesting background information and kindly brought along authentic costumes for us to see.

This now long established annual event in North Norfolk is always a lovely relaxing friendly day amongst all the winter festivities, and this one was as enjoyable as ever.



Life has been hectic ever since, so this is rather a ‘better late than never’ article - but to be honest now we have enjoyed dancing what she taught us a few times more, we appreciate even more the dances she shared with us - so perhaps it is very appropriate timing after all! We would thoroughly recommend a day of Armenian dance with Dalila to any other groups looking for a guest teacher.

**Dawn Wakefield**

Jelenka North Norfolk Balkan Dancing  
(photos by Chris Gill)



## **Bringing it all together in Sheffield**

Dancers from the north enjoyed an excellent dance course in Sheffield with US teacher Erik Bendix. He brought us a lovely selection of music and dances from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Greece and Albania, and had a lot of interesting information about them. Erik has had a lifetimes’ interest in folk dancing and has travelled extensively in the Balkans.

Then at the Saturday evening social dance, we had a staggering total of twenty-two musicians and singers (including Erik) taking part in the live music. That was just under half of the participants present. They made a great sound, and it was an amazing and unique evening, bringing together music, song and dance from the Balkans and elsewhere.

There is something quite special about being part of the music as well as the dance, and it was thanks to John Firmin of the Norwich group that I started to think about including music making and singing together with the dance courses. At one of my weekend courses he tentatively suggested that we try having some live music with a scratch band and “choir” – and his idea has gone from strength to strength.

**Cathy Meunier**

## **A must go to event: Halsway Manor May Day Weekend**

1st- 4/5th May

There are several very good reasons to join in the dancing and other activities at this regular event. The historic venue and stunning location are enough to wet appetites for a long enjoyable weekend away. In addition there's excellent company, a bar and very good food. An extra day can be added so you can return on the Tuesday and avoid heavy bank holiday traffic.

The dance leader and teacher is Janet with lots of live music played by SIFD band member Stella. You don't have to be an expert dancer or to know every dance. Beginners will find friendly hands and instructions to get you dancing. International folk dance music is intoxicating and get your feet tapping.

A local planned interest includes walks from Halsway Manor into the Quantocks but it is advisable to bring hiking boots and sticks (skii sticks are in fashion but not necessary).

There will be a day out consisting of a coach trip across Dartmoor to a National Trust house at Arlington Court which houses the Trust's museum of coaches (NT members bring your card).

Maypole dancing takes place on the Monday which, for anybody who hasn't done it before, can easily be learnt with a little guidance. However, a sense of humour is needed if ribbons get tangled!!

There will be the usual annual croquet competition with all to play for to challenge 2014 champions Jane and Neil from Harrow. The cardinal rule still applies, if you know the rules you are barred from playing!

Halsway is not far from the coast or the West Somerset Railway run by volunteers and has steam trains. The nearest station has the intriguing name of Stogumber.

The weekend has been advertised in the EFDS Halsway brochure to encourage non SIFD members to come along and try international dancing. Book now with Gordon Adie on 01872 260517.

**John Boyd**



## **Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar in Plovdiv**

Bulgaria - July 31 - August 6, 2015

<http://www.folkseminarplovdiv.net/> .

The Seminar ends the day before the Koprivshtitsa festival begins, and a chartered bus from Plovdiv to Koprivshtitsa will be available for Seminar attendees on August 6th.

This Seminar offers an in-depth opportunity to learn traditional instruments, singing styles, and dance than is normally possible for groups or individuals traveling to Bulgaria. The dance program features different groups of dancers and musicians throughout the week, teaching dances from their own villages.

Check out our Facebook page: "Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar, Plovdiv" or [contact@folkseminarplovdiv.net](mailto:contact@folkseminarplovdiv.net)

Larry Weiner, Bulgarian Folk Music & Dance Seminar - 10206 Day Ave. Silver Spring, MD 20910 USA tel: 301-565-0539 or

Dilyana Kurdova, ul. Knyaz Al. Batenberg 40 9000, Varna Bulgaria - (from outside Bulgaria): 011-359-887-990-321, (from

within Bulgaria): 0887-990-321 dates: 16th to 19th JULY 2015!

Information, [www.fimc.es](http://www.fimc.es) T. (+34) 932 326 444



## **SIFD Monthly Dance - April**

On Sunday April 12th the SIFD dance will be at a new venue, PRIMROSE HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE: 29 Hopkinsons Place, off Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN at the usual time 7pm -10pm.

Anne Leach will be the MC so expect an evening of enjoyable dancing with music provided by the excellent SIFD band.

There is an additional dance on Sunday May 10th when Jeanette and Dalila will lead the dancing. This will also be at the new Primrose Hill venue.

**Anne Maddocks**

# **Alphabetical Guide to the SIFD Summer School**

## **(July 25th – August 1st)**

- A An SIFD event happening only this year
- B Brilliant teachers, beautiful beaches, botanical gardens behind the University grounds
- C Classes every morning
- D Dancing morning, noon and night
- E Explore beaches and cliffs of Gower Peninsula or the city of Swansea
- F Friendly atmosphere
- G Good food
- H Henning Christensen teaching Danish dancing with live music from Pia Nygaard  
Icing on the cake – you will see this on the last night
- J Jolly good company
- K Karin Bellaart teaching the general courses
- L Live music to dance to in the evenings and in the Danish classes
- M Maria and Marius Ursu teaching Romanian dancing
- N Never a dull moment
- O Outing to Dan-yr-ogof caves
- P Parade of folk costumes on the last evening
- Q Sorry no, the Queen won't be there but you will meet dance enthusiasts from Canada, Australia, Germany, Holland, Romania , Denmark, and from many parts of the UK
- R Rest (not a lot of that) but you might get some when you eat in the restaurant on the campus
- S Social dancing every evening
- T Tea cakes – we usually find Welsh cakes in a tea room when we go on our outing
- U University of Wales is our venue
- V Very good if you can come

- W Workshops (in dance and music) are held in the afternoons on wooden floors in our dance rooms
- X No xylophone workshops but we might kiss after a French
- Y Your Society needs you!
- Z No, we are not going to a zoo to see a zebra but after the weeks' activities we might have a Z-Z-Z (when we get home) Hope to see you there.
- [www.sifdsummerschool.org](http://www.sifdsummerschool.org)

**Jill Bransby** (Publicity Officer)



## **Rivieradance! February 2015**

Once again Cathy Meunier has excelled in organising just about the best dance course we have attended, which was held at The Livermead Hotel in Torquay. A stay at this hotel is quite an experience with the waiters even wearing frockcoats complete with a carnation buttonhole at breakfast time! The service at the hotel is impeccable, and the food is excellent, but most important of all, the hotel has a large ballroom with a fine sprung floor which compares favourably in size with that at Cecil Sharp House.

Apart from the excellent teachers that Cathy brings to these courses, the social dances each evening are always a great success, with some of the dances taught during the day being included in the programme, and various individuals attending each contributing a short selection of dances, often with live music and/or choral accompaniment.

It is noticeable that very few SIFD members from the South attend these events. We feel they are missing out and could benefit from these enjoyable occasions. We members in the North have been supporting and enjoying the numerous courses organised by Cathy over many years, and these surely deserve wider recognition. Reading in the News Sheet of the uncertainty of the future of the Summer School could this kind of event be the way forward?

**Ian Willson**

## Letters to the Editor:

Dear Janet,

I was interested to read Helen de Bray's article in the February News about dancing in Canberra. We had a similar experience last Easter when we flew to Perth, Western Australia to visit our son and his family. They had moved nearer to the centre of the city, so, having travelled to the far side of the globe, we walked down their street to a church hall where the Perth International Folk Dancers meet. We were made welcome and joined in straight away, we even managed to do Jove Malo Mome when jet lagged and noted that the 'blip' step came in a different order. There were no partner or set dances but a mixture of Balkan and Israeli dances which we either knew or fudged through. (We had a similar experience in Boston, USA many years ago.) It shows that we do really 'Dance With the World'!

**Jill Bransby**



Dear Janet,

I was intrigued to read your Editorial Note in this month's issue of SIFD News.

I can only speak from experience of quadrille dancing, but in that field the understanding is that in France a grand chain is referred to as *la grand chaîne* whereas *chaîne anglaise* refers to a specific figure for two couples and known, I believe, to English country dancers as "rights and lefts through".

- \* I'm sorry this does not constitute an interesting and informative article!

With best wishes for your continued good work.

**Tony Latham**

- \* On the contrary, I think it is interesting and informative. Just to add my two penn'th - I would call that figure "four changes".

**Ed.**

## Dancing at the Cascade, Yerevan, Armenia



There is a fantastic movement towards more traditional dance in Armenia at the moment; lead primarily by Gagik Ginosyan (some of you may remember him from Swansea 2012) and his Karin Ensemble. Entire families, young and old, gather at the Cascade at the centre of Yerevan on the last Friday of every month to learn and dance many resurrected traditional dances. Can't wait for my next visit for some Easter dancing. **Dalila**



### **Balkanplus**

The April Balkanplus will be held on the 11th April at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.

MC will be Julie Korth.

Admission £5.

**Maureen Felton**

**Skift så**

**"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"**

## Skift så

Dear Janet,

As I am going away for two weeks tomorrow morning I have no time to investigate in more detail. The title of the next month's music "Skift så" is Swedish. Skift (pronounced "shift") is the imperative form of the verb skifta, which has several meanings, but basically can be translated as "to move, to change, to alter, to shift". And så means "so, thus" and is pronounced like English "so".

I vaguely remember from the time I lived in Sweden many many years ago that small children "danced" and sang a playful rhyme in a circle and at each refrain started running around and fighting for some objects (toys, fruits or similar), of which there were one fewer than the number of the children, thus eliminating one child each time. And while running they shouted skift, skift (I think). It looked to me like a mixture of Ring a Ring o' Roses and musical chairs. But here I can be completely mistaken.

I hope you'll hear from a true-born Swede, who would be able to give you much better founded information.

**Dal Sudwell**

**‘Skift Sa’** Is Swedish and is pronounced ‘Shift saw’ (in English). Shift has the same meaning in English but otherwise I cannot find a good translation.

Swedish is tonal language so, if spoken, the tone of each word is important and within each word the tone might change, - up or down or both.

I learned this on my journey to Gothenburg to take up a student exchange in a shipyard. I could not make myself understood until I listened to spoken Swedish and tried to imitate the tones. It’s like singing the language. Eventually I was promoted by my boss (Norwegian) to the post of Gofor, after I had learnt to speak well enough to ask for tools at the store. Norwegian has a much flatter pronunciation. When I completed the exchange I was told I spoke Swedish with a Norwegian accent - From Bergen.

This is interesting because my mother spoke norske, which is like the language of Hardanger, close to Bergen. Mother thought it infra dig to speak norske so it was not used in the home and she did not pass it on to me. The Viking settlers to North Yorkshire came from Hardanger.

Perhaps this explains why I was attracted to this exchange to Sweden when most students opted for the south of France or Switzerland.

**Harry Phillips**



Next month - something that seems a bit more challenging:

**Arkan**

The manuscript seems a bit confused:

“Ukraine ?; Tatra Mts. On border of Czechoslovakia / Poland; Town - Hitsul”. (and it’s “not too fast”!).

All attempts at clarification gratefully received.

**Ed.**





## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I **Fri.10<sup>th</sup>-Mon.13<sup>th</sup> 3 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING** with walking led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing in the morning and evening. 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader, at HF Holidays, The Peveril of the Peak, Dovedale, Derbys. DE6 2AW. For details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Sunday 12th SIFD DANCE** see page 13
- Sat.11-Sun.12 INTENSIVE RUSSIAN WEEKEND** Hennie Konings will be providing his expertise again this weekend, with some lovely dances. Venue in London near Old Street Stn. Details from Raymond or Judith Daymar raymond@daymar.freeuk.com or 0132 438148
- S.I **Sunday 19th. MAGGIE O'REGAN** - day course of Balkan dances. 11am till 5pm at Witnesham Village Hall, near Ipswich IP6 9JD. £10. Contact Sally Fletcher, fletcherism@aol.com or 01473 252824.
- S.I **Fri.24th-Mon.27th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Fri. evening to Mon. afternoon) (near Alcester, Warwickshire). International Folk Dancing and other varied dancing, music, handbells, singing, walking and cycling. Int. folk dance teacher from Netherlands, Nel van der Laan, makes a welcome return this year – for the whole weekend. For further information: [www.greatalnefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk) or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.



*All material for the May issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by the 17th April.*