

The monthly newsletter of The Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



NEWS

EVENTS

ARTICLES

INFORMATION

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JUNE 2015

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You will be sad to learn of the death of Joy Steventon, who danced the pasa doble so well (and on TV). Phil has written more on page 5.

~

The cover and motif this month of 'whirling Dervishes' - a souvenir of my holiday in Turkey. Chrisandra Harris of Kilikia, rounded us all up and Turgay Onatli (with others) taught the dances. We didn't try whirling (I remember learning how with Erik Bendix years ago) but we did learn some Semah dances which has the same root. And we were privileged to see Semah in action; it is in fact prayer; I, for one, found it very moving. John has put up a video of it which you may like to see:

https://youtu.be/ecH_yRE3S18

More about the tour on page 8.

Ed.



Erratum - AGM

Please note the AGM is at 2.00 p.m. and not 7.15 p.m. on 31st July 2015 at Swansea. With apologies from Dalila.



SIFD Dance Sunday 14th June at Cecil Sharp House 7pm

The June dance will follow an afternoon workshop led by Frank Dowling between 2pm - 6pm so why not stay and enjoy a mixture of Balkan dances and some general international couple dances led by a variety of MCs.

This is the last monthly SIFD dance before the summer break and as we have use of the large Kennedy Hall at Cecil Sharp House it would be lovely to have lots of dancers to enjoy a mix of dances from around the world with music from the SIFD Band.

On 13th September the dance returns to the Primrose Hill Community Centre and will be led by the Woodvale Group.

Anne Maddocks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jul. 10. BARNET SUMMER PARTY** with music by Dunav Balkan Group. Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW 8pm. £6 (£5 concessions). Contact Brian for details on 01992 582717
- S.I **Jul. 11. BALKANPLUS** - Will be a request evening
- S.I **Jul. 25-Aug.1. SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea University, Singleton Park, Wales SA2 8PP. Danish, Romanian & General Int.. tel 07905 603655 www.sifdsommerschool
- S.I **Jul. 31. SIFD AGM.** 2.00pm at Swansea University (address above)
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.
- S.I **Sep. 11-13. TURGAY ONATLI** teaches dances from Turkey, and Maya Buckley leads a Balkan Instrumental workshop in Calver, Derbyshire. 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. www.balkanfolkdance.org.
- 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 **Sep. 26-27. ILIANA & TODOR IN MANCHESTER & CALVER** £32 (£30) for weekend or £20 (£18) for either day. Contact Mary O'Mahony for more details at maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk or tel. 0161 881 0955.

S.I **Oct.16-18. SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH WEEKEND** with Marina Wolstenholme & Maggie O'Regan at Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, Nr. Matlock, Derbys see page

Oct. 24-25. DANCE AROUND THE WORLD at Cecil Sharp House.

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.*



Joy Steventon

We are very sorry to announce that, sadly, Joy passed away peacefully on 16th May with her son Philip and daughter Wendy by her side.

In February Joy lost her mobility overnight and was in a care home for several weeks until a brain tumour was diagnosed. She then spent a few weeks in Epsom Hospital before moving to a wonderful caring Nursing Home.

Please contact Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649 or email philip.steventon@ukgateway.net for details of the funeral,

Phil & Brenda Steventon

Dear Janet,

The picture by Lucile Armstrong on the front cover of April News gives a stunning representation of everything Andalusian folkdance represents, and the choice of 'Jaleo' is deliberate.

It vividly portrays the turning movement characteristic of the Jaleo, and shows to best advantage the dress, known as 'traje de faralae's' (pleated dress). 'Farala' (accent on the final 'a') means pleat, and is the description Spanish people use for this dress.

Actually, the Jaleo as taught in dancing class is an almost genteel dance, and a far cry from the sound and fury of popular post-midnight dances, yet it has been adopted as a proxy for all that. 'Es un jaleo' is an everyday Spanish expression for any situation in which people have created confusion out of order – unfair, perhaps, but used in fact. Lucile will have had all this well in mind when she did the picture.

A thing to realise about Lucile's work is that her knowledge was all gathered first-hand. She and her husband were joint Principals of one of the English Schools in Barcelona from 1926 to 1936, and folkdance was her hobby. Her upbringing was also influenced by Hispanic culture. Her parents (English father and French mother) were diplomats in South America. To her knowledge was added a power of understanding and intuition. In this she was helped by Violet Alford, a special friend of hers.

I had the good fortune to join her circle of friends in 1972 when we spent two weeks' holiday in Northern Spain visiting various sites and festivals. She appealed for companions in SIFD News and I turned up together with Joan Evans, a former pupil, and her husband Fred and teenage daughter. I believe our trip was based on a much longer visit by Violet Alford, presumably in the 1920s.

Lucile's view was that everything has a meaning, and it was her hobby to tease out an understanding of that meaning. I could go on to give an interpretation of the Jaleo according to Lucile's understanding, but I do not want to overload this contribution, so conclude with my word of admiration for Lucile's work.

Chris Crichton

right:

*a reminder of
the picture by
Lucile. Ed.*



Pontic Dance in Winchester with Kyriakos Moisisdis

JAM Events (Jackie Charbit-Middleton and Mike Machin) are delighted to announce a workshop of Pontic dance taught by Kyriakos Moisisdis at the Discovery Centre in Winchester on the weekend of February 27th/28th, 2016. There will be three sessions of dance teaching from Kyriakos (one on Saturday morning and afternoon, and one on Sunday morning) and a Greek Dance Party on Saturday evening. For those who wish there will also be a chance to sing some Pontic songs.

Full details and booking arrangements will be announced soon but if you have any questions now please email mikecmachin@gmail.com

Jackie Charbit-Middleton & Mike Machin

Dancing and cultural tour, Cappadocia, Turkey.

Having recently returned from this uplifting and invigorating trip, expertly conceived and led by Chrisandra, I want to share some of the highlights with you.

Two years ago, on the wonderful 'Dancing on the Bosphorus' tour, the idea to return to Turkey to explore the Cappadocia area was suggested. So, many of us have looked forward to this trip for some time and we were certainly given a wonderful experience.

The dances, taught by Turgay Onatli, Ilknur Demirbag, local dance teachers Selahattin and Levant and Gulcay (accompanied by their delightful baby son), were interpreted by the inspirational Ahmet Turan Demirbag, who sadly, could not dance or teach because of recent ankle surgery. The dances represented many of the regions in Turkey and I look forward to attempting to teach some of them to the Heart of England group. We had live music at every dance session, whilst the recorded music from the DVD was also played so that the participants could become familiar with it.

The wonderful trips organised for us are too numerous to describe, but include a balloon trip, a visit to a traditional hamam, walks in Rose Valley, Pigeon Valley, Derwent Valley and Ilhara valley, visits to Derinkuyu underground city and Hacibektaş monastery. A highlight for me was a barbeque in the countryside with live music, dancing and singing, generously hosted by a colleague of Ahmet. Our last trip was to Mustafapaşa, where our guide, Ali, spoke movingly about the 'population exchange' of 1923 and the distress caused to the incoming villagers. Our final stop was the atmospheric Keslik Monastery. This is a peaceful and very special place. There are two small churches, cells and a dining room for the monks inside the monastery. These are the Black Church and the Church of St. Stephen. The frescoes in the Black Church have been turned black with smoke over the centuries. To one side lies the dining hall, a massive room in which 100 people could stay and it is divided in two by arcades. The Church of St. Stephen was carved in the 9C and is located 50m from the monastery. The stunning frescoes, painted in shades of brilliant yellow and orange, can be seen in this church.



The landscape of Cappadocia is breathtaking. The geological formation started with the eruption of Erciyes, Hasan, Melendiz and many other smaller volcanoes. Erosion led to conic shapes with a harder and wider layer of rock on top ‘breaking away’ from the main plateau. These structures, often referred to as ‘fairy chimneys’ fill the valleys. The quality of light varies from one moment to the next and gazing at the landscape is spellbinding.

Throughout the tour we encountered generosity, humour and spontaneity. The welcome given to us by many Turkish people we met was fantastic. Grateful thanks go to Chrisandra, our talented dance teachers and everyone else who made this trip the great success it was.

Kathie Hoskins, HoE.



Eastbourne Int. Folkdance Festival welcomes Charlotte



above: Saturday Dance

back page: Sunday Dance

Just as in 2011 when we celebrated the Royal Wedding of Kate and William at the Eastbourne Festival, this year we were able to celebrate the birth of their second child, Charlotte. We also toasted the 40th Anniversary of the Festival itself which started in 1975 with just a few local groups giving a display on the seafront bandstand plus an evening Ceilidh. The festival has grown to offer six or more parallel sessions offering a wide and varied choice, which led to several comments from participants that there was too much to choose from!

Our lead teachers this year were Jan Knoppers and Richard van der Kooij who ably presented three pairs of workshops themed as Eastern European, Western European and World Dances. They were complemented by our very own Maggie O'Regan presenting Greek and Russian workshops and Dalila Heath teaching Armenian dances. Jill Bransby also offered workshops aimed at introducing non-International dancers to the delights of International dancing, and was accompanied by our festival band, Maggie's Mix, who also played for each of the evening dances. The Friday evening Welcome dance was introduced by Dalila, the Saturday International dance was led by Jill, and the Balkan Dance on the final evening was MC'd by Maggie O'Regan.

We would like to thank all our teachers, musicians and stewards plus all those who assisted throughout the weekend. We also thank everyone who came to the Festival for their support and we hope they found it enjoyable!

Next year we welcome back Eddy Tijssen who is well known for his Bulgarian dances. We also welcome Esther Willems for her first visit to Eastbourne, and she will complement Eddy by teaching a variety of dances from other countries. The 2016 Festival runs from Friday 29th April to Monday 2nd May and "Early Bird" tickets will be on sale from 1st November.

We look forward to seeing you at next year's festival!

Ron & Jean Wilks



La Bastringue

A raucous evening at the yacht club (in name only) on trendy Eel Pie Island, Twickenham led me to unearth a jewel of a film that I think most readers will enjoy. Daughter Emma's friends were playing in a lively band called Mad Stick Dog. Towards the end of a solid Country and Western set they unexpectedly gave a funky rendering of La Bastringue. There was nothing we could do at the time to influence the choice of steps by the increasingly alcohol fuelled revellers but I promised to send Emma the necessary information on the popular mixer dance which Yves Moreau learned from Jean Trudel in the 1970s.

As often happens, you "google" one thing and find something else that grabs your attention. In this case it was a link to a delightful four minute animated film made for the National Film Board of Canada - always a guarantee of quality. Made by George Geertsen in 1992, it should bring a smile to the sternest face.

https://www.nfb.ca/film/bastringue_madame_bolduc

Enjoy

Brian Dowsett

SIFD WM Branch Weekend

Fri 16th to Sun 18th October 2015

At **Willersley Castle Hotel**

Cromford, Nr. Matlock, Derbys DE4 5JH

with **Marina Wolstenholme & Maggie O'Regan**



We invite you to join us for our fifth West Midlands SIFD weekend in this beautiful Grade 11 listed Georgian house overlooking the river Derwent, just south of Matlock Bath in the Peak District. If you have not been before talk to people who have, and you will also find plenty of information to tempt you on the website at:

<http://www.christianguild.co.uk/willersley/>

I am delighted to have persuaded **Marina Wolstenholme** to teach for us once again, with support this time from **Maggie O'Regan**. I know they will both find some more lovely dances to inspire us. **The programme** will include the usual social dancing on Friday and Saturday evenings, dance tuition each morning and Saturday afternoon free to relax, swim in the hotel pool, visit the area or join an organised walk. There will also be a music session for those who wish to bring an instrument and hopefully singing too, as this was so successful two years ago. This time we plan to start our weekend with some gentle dancing at 4.30pm on the Friday afternoon and we shall conclude the weekend with Sunday lunch.

The cost for the weekend including ensuite room (single/double/twin), all meals from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch (including morning tea/coffee) and dance tuition will be **£160** per person. There are a limited number of single rooms and also a few twin standard rooms will be available at £148 per person.

For more information and a booking form please contact me.

Maggie Kaye,

Email: margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk or phone 0797-464-9311



Balkanplus

The June Balkanplus will be held on the 13th June at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.

MC will be Frank Dowling with Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver.
Admission £7.

Maureen Felton



Dear Janet,

* I know that Cathy Meunier likes to give plenty of notice of her courses but 90 years in advance is a bit O.T.T! (See p.10 of the May SIFD News).

** I'm sorry you didn't get any feedback on **Arkan**. I remember it as being an exciting 'macho' dance for men but can't remember anything else about it!!

Lily Avery



* **RIVIERADANCE!** is: 3rd – 8th February 2016. **Ed.**

** Having read the description of the dance on page 15, I'm not surprised Lily remembers it as exciting.
After careful consideration - I can't think of anyone I'd trust to throw his axe in the air whilst being attached to me!

Ed.



Branle de la Marne

Chanlonaise

Sononously

Musical score for Branle de la Marne, Chanlonaise. The score is written for three staves. The first staff is in treble clef with a 6/8 time signature. The second staff is in bass clef. The third staff is in treble clef. The music consists of eighth and sixteenth notes. Chords are indicated below the notes: F, C7, F, F, C7, F, C7, F, C7, F.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



La Vinca from Italy will be up for discussion next month. Don't forget - if you harbour any memories about it - pass them on. **Ed.**



I was surprised to read in the May 2015 SIFD News that no one submitted information about the **Arkan**. It was very popular in North America during the 1960s-1980s. I should have told you that I have extensive notes for the dance, too extensive for publication in the SIFD News. Anyone wishing a copy, however, may contact me by e-mail.

Sorry, our archives contain no information about **Branle de la Marne**. Perhaps it hides under another name?

Ron Houston, Trustee
Society of Folk Dance Historians
SFDHist@gmail.com



Arkan

The Folk Dance and Costume Atlas of Poland by Henryk Matyka (who on occasion wrote to the News, in the past) gives some detail. The dance is of the Hucule from a region of the Tatra Mountains. An area which has suffered much from Invaders and their actions. I enclose 'extracts' about the dance and music.

Roy Clarke



Dances of the Hucule

The Arkan linked the dignity of an adult with the wildness of a shepherd boy. Although the dance featured striding steps of moderate tempo there were also sudden fast spins. The men formed a long column, each highlander holding his partner by the belt with one hand, and on the shoulder with the other. Axes with long narrow wooden handles were also in the dance. From time to time these were thrown into the air, the highlanders catching them by jumping up. Crouching movements as in Cossack dances were performed as well as jumps.



AN ARKAN OF THE HUCULE HIGHLANDERS





WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

S.I **Saturday 13th BALKANPLUS** see page 13

Saturday 13th BESKYDY BAND with Eastern European songs, 8.15pm.
Cellar Upstairs, Exmouth Arms, Starcross St. NW1 2HR 020 7281 7700

S.I **Sunday 14th SIFD AFTERNOON WORKSHOP** see page 3

S.I **Sunday 14th SIFD DANCE** see page 3



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