

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



JULY 2015

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

The cover picture of Joy and Steve was sent in by Philip and Brenda Steventon; they have written about Joy on page 6. I believe the motif is of Merton Park (see the photo on page 6).

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The latest Folk Dancer Online, the magazine of the Ontario Folk Dance Association (www.ofda.ca/newsletter.html) has a recipe for Baklava - mmmm - it could enhance your dance.

This is a very slim issue, and there was no feedback on **La Vinca** either. If you don't send me material - I shall have to start prosing on about the Bognor Regis group (at present very small and select), or the philosophy of dance (! which could galvanise some of you into action).

Ed.



Balkanplus

The July Balkanplus will be held on the 11th July at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. No single MC - We will be having a dance request evening. Admission £5

There will not be a Balkanplus meeting in August.

Maureen Felton



Balkan Folk Music & Dance at Sidmouth Folkweek! 2015

We are back in Sidmouth this summer with more Balkan folk dance workshops to live music. And for instrumentalists Maya Buckley is leading a Balkan Instrumental workshop.

The workshops and final social dance are from Tuesday 4th to Friday 7th August. If you are able to join us, we'd love to see you there.

Cathy Meunier

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug. 4 - 7 SIDMOUTH FOLKWEEK see page 3

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

Oct. 24-25. DANCE AROUND THE WORLD at Cecil Sharp House. Non-stop performances and workshops.

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

Feb. 3–8 RIVIERADANCE! 2016 Dance holiday with Roberto Bagnoli (Balkan), Vincent Parodi (Israeli), and Maya Buckley (music making), plus singing, walking & sight-seeing. Balkan only, Israeli only, or both. 5 nights full board ensuite accom. Torquay. £465 (full-days) or £395 (half-days) dance course; £305 for non-dancers. Cathy Meunier: cathy_meunier@hotmail.com or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX www.balkanfolkdance.org



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.*



News of Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov

Preparations are well under way for Iliana's workshops and the star-packed party on the weekend of 19th and 20th September at Cecil Sharp House. If you haven't already done so, please be sure to book your place now. (See Dates for Your Diary)

I am happy to report that Iliana has also given me dates for another brilliantly conceived tour of Bulgaria next year which will, at the very least, match the much-praised Easter in Bulgaria tour of 2014. Full details next month but be sure to keep 15th to 28th June 2016 clear.

Brian Dowsett



A Tribute to Joy Steventon



Joy was born and brought up in Chelsea. She was the youngest of 7 sisters and maintained a strong bond with them all throughout her life. War broke out when Joy was 9 and she was evacuated for a few months. Joy left school with shorthand and typing skills and had various office jobs. At the age of 19 Joy and her friend decided to join the Land Army, and were sent to a farm at Brenzett in Romsey, Kent.

Joy enjoyed walking, and in 1957 met Steve at the Central London Group of the YHA. This group led them both into the world of International Folk Dance and they performed in the Society's annual Royal Albert Hall shows during the late 1950s and 60s. Joy also joined Steve in the Spanish classes with Lucile Armstrong.

Joy and Steve married in 1958 and had two children Philip and Wendy. 1966 was the year the family moved with Steve's job to Merton Park, where they settled in Erridge Road.

In 1970 Joy and Steve started a class in Merton Park, with Wilf Horrocks on accordion. Classes were followed by a visit to Erridge Road (and the opportunity to celebrate birthdays etc) with tea and cakes – home made of course. International folk dancing became her main hobby with Steve. This was the start of a long and happy dancing life, with lifelong friendships. As the class became more confident they ran dances for groups involving demonstrations. Over the years they

danced at St Mary's summer fair, in Battersea Park, the Embankment Gardens, Nonsuch Park and village greens in Kent. Special events included the Queens Silver Jubilee in Trafalgar Square, the Royal Albert Hall and the folk festivals at Sidmouth and Eastbourne.

In the early eighty's they started leading dance holidays for HF Holidays which are still led today by Philip and Brenda.

A class in Cheam spread the fun of dancing to another area. Joy and Steve created a community around their dancing from which has grown an enormous circle of people who have gained great pleasure from the dancing and many friendships. Indeed several couples have met and married after joining their classes or HF holidays, not least their own son Philip and grandson Robert.

Joy was unfailingly kind and patient and her devotion to her family was clear to all of us. She was happiest when with her family and friends and loved to look after her 5 grandsons. In 2008 Joy and Steve celebrated 50 years of marriage with many happy celebrations.

Joy loved her garden and would regularly mow the lawns. She liked to be out in the fresh air and would try to go out every day, always making time at 11 o'clock for her coffee.

In February Joy suddenly lost her mobility and spent a few weeks in a care home. Following the diagnosis of a brain tumour and a spell in Epsom Hospital, Joy moved to Rosebery Manor Nursing Home. We brought furniture and possessions from home, a tape recorder with folk dance music, and photographs of her life displayed on the TV. She spent a peaceful few weeks there. Joy passed away peacefully with Philip and Wendy at her side.

Joy was kind, welcoming, enthusiastic, always happy to listen and ready to offer help and support. People have wonderful happy memories of dancing, chatting and laughing with Joy. She was a lovely lady who lived up to her name bringing joy to everyone she met. We all gained so much from her and many people are indebted to Joy and Steve for introducing them to the world of International Folk Dance.

Thank you everyone for all your kind messages of support and sympathy. Mum will be very much missed but forever in our hearts.

Philip and Brenda Steventon

Musings of a [Nearly] Octagonarian

In the evening of my days I look back on my experiences of International Dance, and muse upon some of the changes that have taken place.

My first Balkan experience was in Naren and Brian's class at the Oval. There I was not only taught many dances, but learned about different Balkan styles and conventions. Most dances were not slickly choreographed to one musical arrangement but the leader "called" or indicated for a change of step. There was a set sequence but the leader decided when to move on to the next, or called the name of the variation eg in Jikino. This meant that all the dancers were kept alert. They had to focus on the leader and maintain a good circle line so that everyone could see the leader.

No one led a dance unless they were really sure of it and once the line was formed you did not force your way in but joined on the end. The different holds were explained - V, high V, T, W, belt, front-cross etc, and everyone took a belt to class or social dance.

I notice now that it is not considered P.C. to correct anyone, or mention that the leg they have chosen is not the usual one. This seems to apply across the teaching spectrum. The only course is to suggest that they are "differently right" so that no feelings are hurt.

When learning dances I have always attempted to write them down, and I still do this. The video then can take its proper role as a reminder but not as a teacher. We have all seen the results of "teaching from the video" so let's get old fashioned and make the dances our own before passing them on.

I am grateful to The SIFD for introducing me to International Folk Dance; this has led to many hours of enjoyable dancing, learning and teaching. I look forward to the next eighty years even if I have to resort to wheel-chair dancing.

from a colleague of Victor Meldrew!

Koprivshitsa Folklore Festival

For 2015 we are pleased to say that we have booked the whole of the wonderful new Hotel Hadjiite for those travelling with the British - Bulgarian Society.

The dates are 6 - 13 August and we have just a few places left. Do get in touch! Please tell your friends!

Details on www.b-bs.org.uk

I'm sure you remember what a wonderful occasion this is.

Annie Kay



Website

I planned to attend all the events on the weekend of June 13th & 14th so I went to the SIFD website to find out how much the workshop would be. In "What's On" there were no separate listings for Balkanplus or the Official SIFD Balkan workshop. It just mentioned the Sunday dance saying that it was at the end of a busy weekend after a Balkanplus and a workshop; no details were given of either. I hope we did not lose numbers because of this.

Fiona Howarth



Bulgarian Folk Dances with Belco Stanev

Saturday 9th – Sunday 10th April 2016 in Sheffield

Belco Stanev is a wonderfully charismatic, much loved and highly respected teacher of Bulgarian folkdance. His dances are known and appreciated all over the world. He is a brilliant teacher, and is particularly adept at selecting dances to suit his audience. He is sure to bring a great selection of dances and music for us. He is definitely worth saving a space in your diary for. There will be more information to follow.

Cathy Meunier

La Vinca

Italy

Intro

A7 D A7 D D A D

A Mod

B Slower

A7 D G

C Mod. Brightly

A E

A E A E

Play B x 1 to finish
Sequence: ABx4 CB

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Next month - **Al G'mali** from Israel - *please* try and send information about the dance. **Ed.**



Le Branle de la Marne (June issue)

The music for this dance was given to Woodvale (and to Wilf) in 1973 by the musician of the group 'Association Folklorique Chaalonnaise' (note the spelling) which twinned with Woodvale at that time.

To my knowledge, the dance was never taught to us, but nevertheless, Wilf included it in his collection, along with other tunes from the region of Chalons-sur-Marne (now Chalons-en-Champagne).

It's quite likely that some of today's Woodvale members could contribute similar comments to the foregoing (my memory is getting rusty after more than 40 years)!

Best wishes

Ian Willson

Reg. Charity No. 284509

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Contact the SIFD at *mail@sifd.org*

WHAT'S ON IN JULY

Saturday 4th BALATON HUNGARIAN DANCE GROUP will perform in the Victoria Embankment Gardens on 4th July, 3-5pm

S.I **Friday 10th 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 **Saturday 11th BALKANPLUS** - see page 3

S.I **Sat. 25th- Sat. Aug.1st SIFD SUMMER SCHOOL** at Swansea University, Singleton Park, Wales SA2 8PP. Danish, Romanian & General Int.. tel 07905 603655 www.sifdsummerschool

S.I **Friday 31st SIFD AGM.** 2.00pm at Swansea (address above)



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