

The monthly newsletter of the Society for International Folk Dancing



SIFD NEWS

August 2015

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Lesley Haddon and Sue Chipp feature on this month's front cover, the photo was taken by Jill Bransby at Baldock and the picture on the back page of another Hungarian group dancing the bottle dance at the same event.

Ed.



SIFD Membership Renewal

Enclosed with this issue is your duly completed membership renewal form (where appropriate). If any details have changed please advise. Otherwise just renew your membership in any way convenient to you to enjoy another year of great international dancing!

Your membership card will be sent with the next issue of the News following renewal.

Dalila Heath



Fancy a Picnic in the Park?

Weather permitting some of us from Merton Park and Cheam, will be getting together to dance for an hour and a half in Nonsuch Park. We will be near the house, toilets and a small cafe will be available until 5pm.

Bring your sandwiches, dance shoes and broly / sun lotion and join us. A costume would make it colourful, but not essential.

Date Sunday 9th August

Dancing from 3pm - 4.30pm

See you there,

Helen Ezra

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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. 13 SIFD DANCE** led by the Woodvale Group at Primrose Hill Community Centre 29 Hopkinson's Place, off Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN
- 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. 01473 272256 maureen.felton@btinternet.com
- 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

S.I **Nov. 7 BALKAN DAY COURSE** with Cathy Meunier at Nutbrook IFDG. Grangewood Methodist Church, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2SJ. 10.30 am - 4.30 pm. £8, half day £5. For further information: 0115 917 1831, gill.morral@ntlworld.com, www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk. No prebooking needed.

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.*



70th Anniversary Show

Nine years ago (*see page 5*), as part of the Big Dance incentive in London, various SIFD groups converged on the Victoria Embankment Gardens to give displays of international folk dancing to the public (SIFD groups have been performing there for over twenty-five years). As 2016 is the 70th Anniversary of the founding of the Society why don't we do it again next summer?

It was a bit of a squeeze that day as an American band was also booked at the same time; but the booking system has changed and it is also now possible to book the Embankment Garden Theatre for a long slot (3pm-8pm). This would give us enough time for a good number of different performances and enable volunteers to set up a stand displaying information about SIFD groups, and, perhaps costumes, or dolls - which would be easily portable (I have seen one or two amazing costume-doll collections). Perhaps we could sell surplus T-shirts etc. (of course I say 'we' but I mean you!)

Lesley Haddon has continued to book performance times annually for his Doina Eastern European Group and Balaton Hungarian Group since, although (to my knowledge) other SIFD groups haven't appeared there recently. His advice is that the date be booked by January or an American band will get in first. Herein lies the problem - a date (Saturday or Sunday) has to be fixed - that all those involved can manage.

So, if your group are interested in turning up, in costume, to entertain and publicise our Society contact me: just let me know **what dates you can't do** - and I will try to book a date.

Although last time there were predominately groups from the London area taking part, perhaps others from further afield could make the trip. Perhaps some SIFD fund or other would help with travel expenses as we would be furthering the objectives of the Society (?)

I travelled with the BRIDE girls on a train and found the walk from Victoria Station, past Buckingham Palace and through the park easy and interesting.

Janet Douglas
contact details on page 2



‘Give and Take’

Give

I have a pair of almost new (worn once) Tservuli shoes size 39 that for various reasons I can no longer wear and I would be glad if a SIFD member would enjoy wearing them, free of charge, but you could pay postage or buy me a drink at Swansea.

Take

I am hoping, through the News, to find someone who will make me a ‘Visual’ of **‘Hora Din Teis’** by whatever means you choose. I can always find someone with the latest equipment (I hope) to transfer it for me. CD or DVD is as far as I go.

Recently I purchased CD4 and the only one I don’t know well enough to teach on, is track 1.

I have the new disc, CD4.....

I have the original records and the cassettes I copied them on to.

I have the S.I.F.D. notes with my comments added on. However, my brain has drawn a blank. I can remember dancing Hora Din Teis in the 1950/60s at a workshop, maybe in Barnet. I seem to remember the group finding it difficult and deciding to move on to another dance.

So, if someone who knows Hora Din Teis and is willing to do it for camera, you will make a white haired old granny very happy. I will pay all expenses or whatever. See you at Swansea.

Sue Clark

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Iliana Bozhanova & Todor Yankov Workshops



Another “Roll up!” call for Iliana and Todor’s London Bulgarian dance workshops on 19th/20th September at Cecil Sharp House. Their programmes invariably cater for the novice as well as the experienced dancer and provide us with the opportunity to witness their considerable singing talent. I cannot think of a better way to start the new Balkanplus season, particularly as the Saturday evening party will feature Dunav and invited guest performers.

A terpsichorean feast.

Contact Maureen for your workshop tickets (See Dates for Your Diary or the Balkanplus website www.balkanplus.org.uk) and remember that SIFD members have the benefit of the lower prices – shown in brackets.

It is also the perfect time to bang the tapan to announce details of

“June in Bulgaria”:

a tour to Western Thrace, the Rhodope Mountains and Pirin with Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov from 15th to 28th June 2016.

This is a truly remarkable tour designed for dance enthusiasts. Those of us who enjoyed Iliana’s “Easter in Bulgaria” tour will testify to the fact that she is the supreme expert in the field. Yes, we’ll take in the essential sites like the Rila Monastery and Melnik but also meet authentic folklore groups as we visit five towns in this beautiful region, staying at the best hotels.

Add the dance and singing work-shops with Iliana and Todor plus special concerts by professional groups including the renowned Pirin Ensemble (*see opposite page*) and we begin to see that this will be an amazing experience.

Pirin Ensemble (photo by Jean Wilks)



My Balkanplus colleagues have kindly allowed me to provide full details on the website. Alternatively, look out for the attractive flyer and information sheets at the workshops in September or contact me directly.

Brian Dowsett

bvdowsett@aol.com 01992 582717



Balkan Experience

Dear Colleague of Victor Meldrew

Reading your Balkan experience I felt your pain - or was it acute nostalgia?

Many years ago as a young teenager I was invited to join a 'kolo' (the first of hundreds). I waited to be invited because in those far off days of dance etiquette to do otherwise would have been unthinkable.

When I first began dancing with a Balkan community the musicians were paid by the 'kolovodje' - leader. He (always a 'he' then) and a few chosen friends would begin the dance. The leader was always in complete control calling each step change and improvising constantly - no measured choreography there! Only after a dazzling display of energy was the kolo open to everyone.

My experience differs from yours on one point. As you say the leader directed the dance but the other key person was 'ketz' - the end dancer. Always a strong confident dancer ketz would twirl a white handkerchief to keep the dance free from evil spirits but the main role of ketz was to keep the circle - sometimes a difficult job. However it did give freedom to improvise often dancing backwards or into the circle.

The only way in was to be invited taking care not to divide friends or families. End or middle is still a debateable point.

Style, of course, was everything. It was as important as costume in the identity of a community. All Balkan regions (even small villages) could be identified by costume, style of dance and music. They were expressions of belonging. There was no space for being 'differently right'. Differently right would have been definitely wrong!

The SIFD does a wonderful job in keeping so much alive but in the post modern world of pick and mix group identity is no longer so relevant. Individual identity is encouraged. If I want to do a Dobrugean Bride's dance in the style of a Montenigrin warrior that's OK - 'because I'm worth it' and I can be 'differently right'.

But something is lost in translation. In our constant search for the new we are in danger of trading quality for quantity. Balkan dance without understanding of individual style and meaning begins to lose its shape and depth.

Dance is fickle. It takes on bits from here and there and maybe style no longer matters. Perhaps the future will bring Afro-American Balkan groups or Chinese Balkan dances. Only very recently I danced a shetnije to what sounded suspiciously like a Carribean steel band!!

Whether or not traditions are important today Balkan dance with all its joy, sorrow, defiance and celebration could lose much of its vitality if we only learn by carefully counted measures.

I look forward to further correspondence.

Friend of Victor Meldrew



What Do You Think ?

When I joined SIFD more than fifty years ago we were all encouraged to be as accurate as possible regarding style and ethnic details. SIFD went out of its way to bring in teachers from overseas or visit countries whose dances they wished to learn. Is it not part of the constitution? I remember being encouraged to drop my balletic approach and concentrate on the feel of the dances we were learning.

Note taking was an aid. So what do you, the members, think about learning dances from the box? I know some people who fancy a piece of music, write down the steps and then 'teach' the 'steps' on. I want to scream but then I am an oldie and need the modern ideas to help me out!!! So what do you think?

Sue Clark



Report on the June SIFD Daycourse

Back in September 2012 the SIFD Sunday Dance was held as a commemoration of the late Ken Ward, with Frank Dowling leading the evening. Those who attended will know that it was a most successful event.



It was decided that an SIFD Daycourse should be held as a follow-up to the Dance, with dance and music from the former Yugoslavia.

The Daycourse was held on June 14th at Cecil Sharp House, with Frank Dowling teaching from Ken Ward's repertoire. Live music was provided by Mike Machin and Clyde Olliver.

Frank had also arranged a display of pictures of costumes which would have been worn in the countries presented, and drew attention to the influence on particular dances, music and costume of other countries in the region. The photograph is of the dance Rezijanka, from Slovenia, danced in a longways set formation, showing the influence of Italian character.



Judith Payling

(top left: Photograph of Ken Ward in Bitola.)

A couple of comments:

Kudos to the author of "Musings of a [Nearly] Octogenarian."

Notating dance instructions can be tedious, but writing on paper will outlast by far the various video media now in use. Please, please dear author, take the next step by disseminating your notations. The easiest (albeit impermanent) method would be to ask a technologically savvy person to scan them into computer files and post the files on the Web, perhaps on the SIFD site.

From the instructions in our archives, I believe that La Vinca (p. 10 of the July SIFD News) is another name for Bal del Truc. It names Italian versions (from Aviano and Lombardy) of that huge dance family that includes the following:

Fingerletanz / Altkatholisch - Schwarzwald, Germany Finger polka - Denmark, Scandinavia, Baltic countries, and Germany Fingerpolkett - Sweden

Hansel and Gretel - Germany, from the Humperdinck opera of that name

Hendrickska / Hendriekske / Driekusman - Netherlands

Klappdans / Clap Dance - Sweden

Klappdans / Fingerpolka / Ungersveinen og jomfruva - Norway

Klapptanz / Klappdanz / German Clap Dance / Winkerschotts - Germany Clapping Dance - Finland Clap and Tramp - Denmark

Klepperwals - Flemish Belgium

Klumpakojis - Lithuania

Stras^a'k / Strashiak - Czechoslovak, probably Slovak

Wooden Shoes - Lithuanian American

I would be happy to have corrections and to hear about other names and versions for this dance family. Those requiring instructions may contact me.

Ron Houston

S FDH (*sfdhist@gmail.com*)

Al G'Mali

Israel

Mod. Intro

The musical score is written in 4/4 time with a key signature of one flat (Bb). It consists of five staves of music. The first staff begins with a 'Mod. Intro' and includes a double bar line with a repeat sign. The second staff starts at measure 13. The third staff starts at measure 18 and includes a section labeled 'B'. The fourth staff starts at measure 23. The fifth staff concludes the piece. Chords are indicated below the notes: Gm, Cm, D7, Gm, Cm Gm, D7 Gm, Cm Gm, D7, Cm Gm, D7, Cm Gm, D7, Gm Eb, B, Gm Eb, Bb Eb Gm D7 Eb Gm, D7, Gm.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



La Vinca – an Italian couple dance which is recorded on the National Dances 1 EP. I used to teach it in my school Dance Clubs (notable member Anne Leach). It is a couple dance starting with quick gallops, then on the spot stamps, claps, shake finger, turn. In displays we used it as a way of getting on to the performance area.



Al Gmali – On my camel. There are two versions of this dance, circle and couple. We knew the circle version in Hama'agal Israeli Group. It is by Moshe Eskayo. It is rather a complicated dance to describe. I might be able to unearth some instructions from the dusty corners of my archive as I still have all the old printed instructions that used to come with records (remember those big black discs?) if anyone is desperate for them.

Fiona Howarth



Next month - **Paigal Jaamise Polka** - from Estonia - have you any information about the dance? **Ed.**



Dear Janet,

I was chuckling so much over your comment on Arkan that I failed to notice your request for **La Vinca**.

This is a great favourite with Infant classes as it is quick and easy:-

Bars 1-8 With partner, 16 skips in line of dance

Bars 9-12 Face partner and stamp 3 times

Clap own hands 3 times

Shake R. forefinger at partner 3 times

Turn R. about with 3 running steps

Bars 13-16 Repeat Bars 9-12

The only thing I found out about Al G'mali is that it means On My Camel, according to Hebrewsongs. Could be interesting movements!
Best wishes,

Janet Mason





WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Tuesday 4th-Friday 7th SIDMOUTH FOLK WEEK (with Balkan folk music & dance) www.sidmouthfolkweek.co.uk

Sunday 9th PICNIC IN THE PARK see page 3

Friday 21st-Friday 28th 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 Friday 28th-Monday 31st WILLINGDON IFDG 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.



All material for the September issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by the 17th August.