

The Monthly Newsletter of the Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



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INFORMATION

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SEPTEMBER 2015

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The Big SIFD Display I proposed last month will be June, July or August - how many groups are going to send a contingent?

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Our cover this month shows Marius, Maria and Patricia Ursu (photo by Roger Sturge; on the back page Henning Christensen, Pia Nygaard and Dorien Bates at Swansea last month (photos by Jill Bransby).

Ed.



Committee Notes

I've had a few letters about summer school, they've all been very positive. All I'd want to add would be to thank all the people who organised it, and everyone who contributed to such a happy atmosphere.

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The committee is unchanged - we will next meet in Mid September to sort out any changes in the "who is responsible for what" chart.

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At the AGM there was a successful proposal to make Marina Wolstenholme an honorary member.

Jeanette Hull



SIFD Dance

SIFD Monthly Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre 13th September 7pm-10pm

We start the new term with the Woodvale Group leading the dances at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place off Fitzroy Rd. London NW1 8TN

This is a short distance from Cecil Sharp House. The walk from Camden Town underground station takes about 15 minutes and Chalk Farm station is about 10 minutes walk away. Parking is available on nearby roads.

Anne Maddocks

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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
- S.I **Oct. 24-25. DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** 15th annual celebration of traditional dance in London. 10am - 11pm. 2 days of workshops and performances by over 50 groups, representing around 30 different countries. Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY. £14 day (incl. eve) £9 eve only £22 whole weekend. £2 reduction for concessions. Children (accompanied) free.
- 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.
- S.I **Dec. 29 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.
- S.I **Nov.21–22 IBRAHIM RIZEVSKI** teaches dances from Macedonia and Serbia in Sheffield. Weekend dance course £42.50. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or e:mail your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. Website www.balkanfolkdance.org.

S.I **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

Feb 27-28 PONTIC DANCE WORKSHOP with Kyriakos Moisidis 3 teaching sessions of Pontic dance with Kyriakos, a Greek Dance Party on Sat. eve. Winchester Discovery Centre, Jewry Street, SO23 8SB. £55. Contact Jackie Charbit-Middleton 8 Pine Road, Chandlers Ford, SO53 1LP (02380 255167) or charbitmiddleton@gmail.com.



*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.*



ITTYA!

Yes friends, It's That Time of Year Again. Dance Around the World returns in October (24th and 25th) for the 15th time, so put it in your diary NOW. If you haven't been before, there will be plenty of your friends and (dance) colleagues who can tell you what a treat it is. As usual, we won't have exact details of who's performing/teaching until fairly late in the day, but it will be the mix as before, with lots of our regulars returning. I can tell you that the Saturday night social dance will be Balkan, led by Brian Dowsett and Dunav, competing with the Latin American night in the main hall.

Looking forward to seeing lots of you there. (See Dates for your Diary for prices, etc.)

Maggie O'Regan

By the way, the "Hungarian" group doing the bottle dance in last month's mag. was actually the Slovak group 'Morena', as it happens, long time regular performers at DATW.

Swansea 2015

Here are my memories and impressions of the Swansea Summer School. Serenely presiding over the week, Dorien gave us a friendly and rewarding Summer School. She had already spent weeks in preparation, and had dealt with the emergencies caused by the late change of date. Her organisational skills and tactful ways of dealing with people made her the ideal person to run such an event. All of us there owe her a great debt of gratitude, and I propose the Society sends her a vote of thanks. Ta, Dorien! Well Done!!

Because of smaller numbers this year, classes were small and concentrated. Marius, Maria and Patricia gave us an overview of many Romanian regions and dance styles. The teaching was thorough and they never gave up in despair at our attempts. My head has been ringing with the wonderful melodies and I find myself doing the steps at bus stops and in supermarket queues. Thank you to them for the great gift of new and accessible dances and for their good company.

Danish was taught by Henning, a lively and energetic fireball. He was accompanied by the phenomenal Pia who not only played the accompaniments on her violin, but knew all the steps and danced them whilst playing!! A great team and a breath of youthful spirits and enthusiasm – many thanks.

In the General International classes Karin presented a really wide range of dances, some from areas rarely seen in SIFD. I loved the sensuous Puerto Rican dance called “Bad Money” [whilst realising that the style may be one we will strive for but rarely achieve]. She gave us some lovely Polish and Netherlands dances and we tied ourselves in knots attempting a complex Russian dance which was both partner and non partner! I’m sure many of Karin’s dances will find their way into our class repertoires, so thank you very much.

There were some challenging moments – meals were transferred to a smaller area and we were in competition with Olympic swimmers, ancient language scholars, Kayak life-savers and diverse students. In the residential building one of the two lifts was out of action most of the week despite serving ten floors of people trying to get to breakfast at the same time. Also on our corridor there was no hot water for most of the

time. So - we were smelly and late! Never mind.

It was a wonderful week in the fantastic Welsh countryside – as we went by car we could visit Rhossili and Mumbles along roads bordered by a verge of wild meadow flowers. All the participants were friendly and happily danced in the classes and evening dances. There was a huge take-up for the quiz on Underground stations; it was won by a German-born Swansea resident. [the Londoners compensated by being runners-up] There are many more people who worked hard in front of and behind the scenes; no space to list them all but they are appreciated.

Jill and Peter Bransby had put in hours of preparation before the Summer School and their efforts continued at Swansea with Peter dealing with all financial matters and Jill supporting Dorien. The week was rounded off on the Friday with a champagne reception to celebrate their Golden Wedding. What an achievement! This was followed by the special meal and the Costume dance, sending us all home with very happy memories of “The Last Swansea.”

Fiona Howarth



photo taken by Jill Bransby

Summer School at Swansea, 25th July – 1st August, 2015

This year's Summer School turned out to be rather special with a relaxed and happy atmosphere throughout the week. The numbers were lower this time, 56 participants, including non dancers and teachers, but this enabled us to get to know people better.

Marius and Maria Ursu taught us 17 new Romanian dances in a highly efficient manner, working hard to get us to remember their dances. When I thought my legs couldn't move anymore, I would hear the request from Marius, 'Again please'! When my brain is less tired I hope I'll be able to teach a few of them – some of them were really lovely. They brought their daughter Patricia with them and all the family joined in at the evening dances, as did all the teachers, who were game for anything and everything.

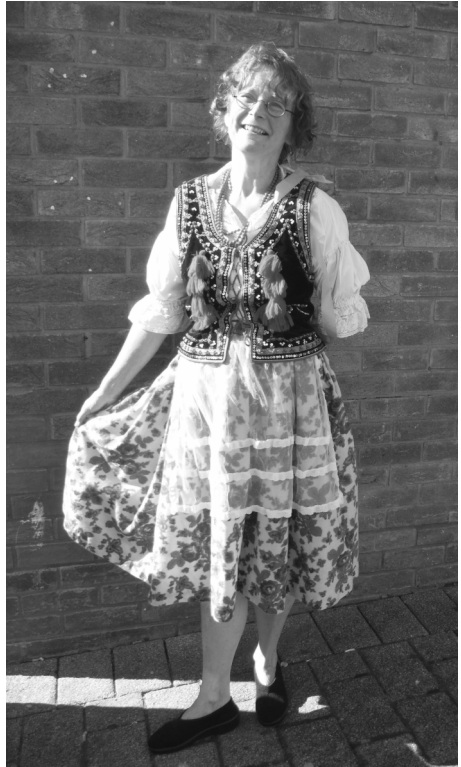
Karin Bellaart (pictured opposite) taught the two general courses, partner and non partner, which included a wide variety of dances. Many people I spoke to found the courses rewarding and fun. I didn't do these courses but watched or joined in some of her dances in the evening. They were taught in a lively fashion by Karin, who communicated her enjoyment of the dances to all.

The Danish course was taught by Henning Christensen who introduced us to a variety of formations, circle, couple dances, 2 couple dances, 3 couple dances, quadrilles, longways. Probably the most memorable was La-Tem-Pett (Stormen) which included a lot of arm waving ('waving not drowning'). We got to the end of the storm without losing any crew members so could celebrate with Hornfiffen! All our dances were played for us on the fiddle by Pia Nygaard who was a wonderful musician. Her playing in the evening dances contributed to create a 'magic' atmosphere.

The evening dances were led by a variety of M.C s (in order: me, Gill Morrell and Geoff Weston, Fiona Howarth, Jeanette Hull, Maggie Kaye, Anne Leach, Janet Woolbar), and played for by a variety of musicians (Maggie Kaye, Philip Steventon, Stella Wentworth and Ben Hooke, Ben arriving on the Tuesday). Every night there were many people dancing with obvious enjoyment and we shared many moments of joy and laughter. It really felt like social dancing.

There were afternoon workshops for those with stamina, these included:

Manx Dancing by Geoff Weston, Canadian Folk Dancing by Dale Hyde, Romanian Couple Dancing by Marius and Maria, Menorcan Fandango by Ben Hooke and Laura Perraman-Llado. Maggie Kaye led 2 music workshops and the musicians formed a lively band on Wednesday night. Fiona Howarth led a Walking Through the Dances session focussing on dances for her evening dance. Jeanette Hull gave an Introduction to Evening Dances and another session on Mcing and Teaching Folk Dancing.



Fiona also kept our ‘little grey cells’ working with her Compulsory Fun, which had us puzzling over enigmatic clues about the London Underground which was fun and compulsory in the sense that you wanted to finish it. Thanks to all who led these activities to keep us busy and stimulated.

Tuesday afternoon we went on our outing. Fortunately the weather had begun to improve after several days of torrential rain and wind. The destination was underground to the National Show Caves Centre which was on the edge of the Brecon Beacons. The show caves were extensive and impressive but I was glad that I wasn’t with the Morgan Brothers who first explored the caves with a candle, a ball of string, and a coracle! The formations of stalactites and stalagmites and water features were very impressive. We all emerged safely, including Sue Clark, and didn’t get attacked by the numerous plastic dinosaurs outside.

On the final afternoon we posed around in our splendid costumes just outside of the Fulton Building in the sunshine. Then everyone came into the student bar to have a drink with us (Peter and Jill) as it was our Golden Wedding Anniversary. Jean and Ron Wilkes also celebrated their Pearl Anniversary on the Monday and they later did the official filming for the Summer School.



photo by Roger Sturge

Our final celebratory meal was a very pleasant occasion which was held in a different room, Cafe West. Although this was officially the same grade of meal that was provided for the rest of the week, I thought it was better and seemed to be enjoyed by all. (During the rest of the week we had to eat in the Fusion Cafe, instead of the usual large dining hall as the latter was being refurbished – a last minute change.)

The final dance involved saying goodbye and thank you, especially to the teachers, and included the traditional cake ceremony with a Polonez. Alison Scrimshaw made the beautifully iced cake. Thank you Alison, it was lovely. We finished the evening with Pia playing for the final dance, called Engelsk Mallebrok, which provided a fitting ending as it concludes with everyone singing. This was followed by more communal

activity, taking down the decorations (kindly lent to us by John Stewart) and dismantling the sound equipment, which had been worked effectively all week by Dave Wedd. Ben continued playing lovely music on the stage while everyone worked around him. I wondered whether he might be lifted off while still playing?

Talking of the ending – this is the final Summer School in this form and certainly the last the present Summer School organising committee will do. Our thanks must be primarily to Dorien Bates for the enormous amount of meticulous work that she has undertaken since organising her first in 2008. This 2015 event was a happy, friendly and enjoyable occasion – a good one to finish with.

Jill Bransby (Publicity Officer)




Dear Janet,

re: Sue Clark's letter in the S.I.F.D. Newsletter - I am totally in agreement with what she says - "Style and Ethnic details"...

Whilst 'visual aids' may be a help to many, it's still not the same as 'living' with the dance.

I learned this early on. As in speech, dances have a 'dialect' - referred to - certainly in Hungary - and all the other areas into which I have been so wonderfully included. Visiting teachers add so much to the actual physical activity of any dance but the 'emotion' seems to be 'left out' when many teachers leave out the essential 'spirit' of the dance.

I've even known teachers use  as "one-two-three" instead of "one and two", so that notes can easily produce not a two-beat movement but a waltz.

It's easy to forget that people of the culture being danced may be watching - how about an occasion when one of them could say - "I know that tune, but what have they done to it?"

Notes, even music notes, go no further than that if the dance does not reflect the spirit of the original.

Sybil Chapman

Hungarian Dance Workshop

There will be a Hungarian dance workshop on Sunday 27th September taught by two very experienced visiting Hungarian dance teachers: Attila Onodi from Transylvania and his wife Kata Csecsi from Szeged. They are members of the Hungarian State Dance Ensemble, and together they also run the Vadrozsak dance group in Budapest. In the summer they organise and teach at a dance camp which takes place at the home where Attila grew up in the village of Csikborzsova.

Attila and Kata will be teaching the dance style from the Szatmár, in north-east Hungary. The style has been made iconic by the fact that the state group used this dance for its finalé and represents Hungarian dancing for many people, involving ankle-clicks, leg-slaps, turns and stamps, and with plenty of scope for the men to show off with impressive slapping sequences. The main dance will involve couple dancing, much of the time in peasant hold. There is some turning, with figures while turning and on the spot, and figures when separated from but facing your partner. At heart Hungarian dancing is improvised but the standard teaching approach involves practising short sequences and then giving the dancers some time (and rules) to combine these in order to become comfortable with the style. This format is new for many SIFD dancers but I think it will be interesting.

The workshop will take place in the function room of George and Devonshire Pub, 8 Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London W4 2QU (next to the Hogarth Roundabout on the A4, nearest tube Turnham Green, about 15 minutes away on foot). It starts at 10.30am and ends at 4.30pm, with an hour's break for lunch (bring your own food). Fee: £10. Since there is limited space, if you are interested can you notify me in advance: Leshaddon@aol.com, 02084412959. There is a tancház (social dancing) later that evening at the same venue, 7-10pm, £3.

Best wishes

Leslie Haddon



Strašák

In his contribution (in the August issue), Ron Houston lists dances from various countries, which resemble La Vinca, to which the music was published in the July issue of SIFD News. His list includes “Stra^a’k/Strasiak – Czechoslovak, probably Slovak”. I should like to make a correction to this item.

Strašák (pronounced: stru-shah-ck, with stress on the first syllable) originates from the Bydžov region, about 50 miles east of Prague, so it is a Czech folk dance. The grown-up couples usually dance 8 bars of polka, followed by 8 bars of stamps, claps, forefinger shakes and turn single – as described by Janet Mason in the last month’s issue. The version for children replaces the couple polka with a promenade in the polka rhythm.

It may be of interest to note that the dance is nearly always accompanied by singing, the words being one of the most popular Czech nursery rhymes: Šla Nanyňka do zelí. The song tells of little Nancy who carries a basket to pick some cabbages in the field. She is accosted by Pepichek who steps on and destroys the basket. Nancy scolds him and warns him that he will have to pay for the damage. That’s where the stamps, claps and finger shakes in the dance come in.

Another interesting point about Strašák is its inclusion in the Czech national quadrille, Česká beseda. Beseda was devised in the second part of the 19th century and played important part in the Czech national revival within the German-dominated cultural and social conditions (the Czech Lands were at the time part of the Austrian-Hungarian Empire). Beseda has four parts, each containing several folk dances arranged for ballroom. Strašák concludes the final part. Traditionally, the musicians play the dance twice for dancers to polka in couples, followed by stamping, clapping, scolding and pirouetting. Thereafter another 16 bars of polka are added by the musicians while couples polka or promenade off the dance floor. This is rather a singular finish to dancing a quadrille, replacing the usual bow and curtsey.

Dal Sudwell

Paigal Jaamise Polka

Estonia

A

C F G C D7 G

9B

C F G7 C F G7 C

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Next month **Boerenschotts** from Holland - what do you know? **Ed.**



I am afraid all I could find out about **Paigal Jaamise Polka** is that it translates to 'Stagnation Polka' umm.. I suppose that's why I've heard nothing about it.

Ed.



Balkanplus

We have managed to keep our prices pegged for several years now, but incremental increases in the hall charges have finally forced us to review the situation. As from October the Balkanplus prices will rise to £6 (£8 with live music) and the season ticket price will increase by £5 to £50 - still good value for regular participants. It would be perfect timing to become a season ticket holder at the old price this month during the Iliana weekend (see What's On) - but don't tell anyone I told you!

Brian Dowsett

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WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- S.I **Sat.11th-Sun.13th TURGAY ONATLI** teaches dances from Turkey, and Maya Buckley leads a Balkan Instrumental workshop in Calver, Derbys. Cathy Meunier, 23 Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. www.balkanfolkdance.org.
- S.I **Sunday 13th SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- 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. Mary O'Mahony 0161 881 0955. or maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk
- Sunday 27th HUNGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** see page 12



All material for the October issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17thSeptember.