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**November 2015**

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It is now 10 years since I took over from Lily Avery as Editor of the SIFD News. It's weird how numbers magically 'add up'; Lily was Editor for 37 years, and, the front cover picture - a random choice - of Polish dancers (drawn by David Dewhirst) first appeared 47 years ago .

I have designed six covers for 2016 with **70th Anniversary** designs - including covers by Lesley Boorer and Anna Huston which I have adapted; so this is your chance to send me a new cover design which celebrates seventy years of the Society - I need six more.

There has been no response so far to my suggestion of SIFD groups having a day out at the Embankment Gardens Theatre for a big **70th Anniversary** display - so that's probably a non-starter. Also no response about **Duz im Obfeld** (page 10); hopefully we shall find something out about next month's featured music - **Ramno Velesko**.

**Ed.**



## **SIFD Monthly Dance**

The SIFD Monthly Dance will be at Primrose Hill Community Centre  
8th November 7pm - 10pm

The November Dance will be led by Dot Bradbury and Anne Maddocks.

On 13th December Jill Bransby will lead the pre - Christmas dance.

**Anne Maddocks**



## **Old Camcorder**

The Society acquired its first digital camcorder, which uses the mini-DV tape format, back in 2000 and replaced it by a new model in 2012. Although we have kept it since then as a spare, it has not been used since the 2012 summer school and we are now disposing of it.

If anyone would like it (and some tapes) for £15, contact the committee.

**Richard Mellish**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Dec.11 BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with Dunav Balkan Group. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW £6 including food and drink. For more details contact Brian on 01992 582717 or [bvdowsett@aol.com](mailto:bvdowsett@aol.com)
- S.I **Dec. 12 BALKANPLUS** the MC will be Zivko Firfov with Dunav
- S.I **Dec. 13 SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- Dec. 18-20 DANCING AT DUNFORD** see page 7
- 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](mailto:rowenahmartin@hotmail.com).
- Jan 3 NEW YEARS PARTY** Celebrate the New Year at a Balkan Dance Party on Sunday 3rd January 2016 at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR from 12.00 to 16.30. Bring and share lunch. Cost £5. Contact Greg on 07810181 or [gregboyd99@aol.com](mailto:gregboyd99@aol.com)
- S.I **Jan. 30 OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, St. Margaret`s Institute, Polstead Road, (Off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 7:00 to 10:30. Food & drink provided. Music: CDs & Dunav. Tickets at the door: Adults: £10; children under 14: £3.00; children under 4: free. For more information email: [sallylhumphrey@gmail.com](mailto:sallylhumphrey@gmail.com) or [charlotte@haenlein.co.uk](mailto:charlotte@haenlein.co.uk)
- 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](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com) or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX [www.balkanfolkdance.org](http://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](mailto:charbitmiddleton@gmail.com).

**Apr 4-8 4 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING WITH WALKING** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. see page 10



*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.*



## **June in Bulgaria 2016**

The recent visit to the UK of Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov reminded us of their special status as ambassadors for Bulgarian folklore. It was, as always, a pleasure for me to host them and experience the hospitality of our friends in Manchester – in particular Mary and Paul O’Mahony – and in Calver. We look forward to the launch of their next CD and perhaps another visit in about three years time, not to mention another brilliant T-shirt design by Iliana and an accompanying DVD perfectly crafted by Ron and Jean.

For those who can’t wait three years or more, there are still places available on Iliana’s next tour which visits Pirin, Western Thrace and the Rhodope mountains and commences on 15th June 2016. The tour itinerary is continually being tweaked and improved but details and the booking form can be found on the Balkanplus website [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk). You are, of course, welcome to contact me directly.

Having just returned from a four day NADFAS trip to Madrid, extraordinarily good though it was I couldn’t help but notice that the thirteen days in Bulgaria will cost no more and should match or even exceed the high rating given to Iliana’s Easter in Bulgaria tour in 2014. Iliana has a special talent to connect with the local communities so, although we’ll obviously experience such treats as a special concert for us by the Pirin Ensemble, it is likely that personal highlights will include the warm welcomes of villagers astonished and flattered that we share a love and knowledge of their local dances.

**Brian Dowsett**

## Southdowns Folk Festival

2015 was the third year of the Southdowns Folk Festival which takes place in Bognor Regis over the third weekend in September. With music, song and dance in the park and around the town, English folk takes precedence but International Folk Dance is represented by Bognor Regis International Dance Ensemble (my local group) and a couple of Appalachian dance groups. I am hoping that the international side will grow - but it's early days yet.



*above: dancing Bonny Green Garters with the Morris sides*

We wore a mix of Polish and Hungarian costumes and danced Kokotek, Laura, Maruszka and Zagrodnik; also Hohrehonsky czardas and a couple of Israeli dances - Ashrei Haish and Klezmer as they go well with skirts.

Last year BRIDE danced and dressed Turkish at the same festival, but we had a problem in the High Street finding an electricity supply and had to default on one performance. This year a shop gave us permission to use their electricity: they have a sensor half-way up the doorframe to detect people going in and out - connected to their head office (the pressure some people have to work under). We had been in and out a few times organising the socket and using duck tape - when the manager told me we could only continue if we went in and out under the sensor - over the next two days some shoppers were startled to see a colourful character crawling in and out of the shop on her hands and knees.

The group has been through many changes in the last two or three years. It was primarily a children's group until 2012; children grow up. They left in shifts - coming back now and again to find their friends absent and leaving again. For a couple of years a few adults tried us out, stayed a year or so and then disappeared into the ether. I don't want to tempt fate, but things seem to be changing for the better; one of the girls is back - full of enthusiasm and ideas, persuading a couple of the others to return and dragging friends along to have a go. It could end up as a very young vibrant group with a retiree sitting on a chair\* at the side giving encouragement.

**Janet Douglas**

\* or reclining on a sofa - there is one in our class.



## **Dancing at Dunford 18th - 20th December**

Why not make an early start to Christmas this year by coming to Dunford House - which is near Midhurst in Sussex.

Last year thirty of us enjoyed an excellent weekend of dancing in the house which was once the home of Richard Cobden (who worked for years for the abolition of the Corn Laws). It is an attractive mid nineteenth century house that still retains furniture, pictures and memorabilia relating to the original owners, while being thoroughly up-to-date, with single, twin and double bedrooms, all being en-suite.

Well known SIFD teachers Janet Woolbar, together with Philip and Brenda Steventon, will again be leading the dancing, so you can look forward to an interesting and varied programme.

The staff at the house are friendly and helpful, the food is good, especially Christmas dinner on Saturday night. If, on Sunday morning, you would prefer a walk, David will be happy to have your company.

Do join us for an enjoyable start to the festive season: if you need to know more please ring me on 020 8540 3464.

**Dot Bradbury**

## **Eastbourne International Folk Festival**

29th April - 2nd May 2016

The lead teacher for the international side of the festival in 2016 will be Eddy Tijssen, well known and liked as a teacher of Bulgarian dances. Other teachers lined up include Esther Willems, who is coming to the festival for the first time, and Corry Verheijen making a welcome return. Esther and Corry will both teach a wide selection of international dances. This year we also feature a French theme on Saturday with French dance workshops and a French Bal.

The festival needs stewards to ensure its smooth running and offers to assist with the stewarding would be most welcome. We would be pleased to hear from you if you would like to exchange work for a ticket. Arrangements are flexible to maximise dancing preferences. Please contact Maureen (01823 401271) if you are able to help.

Bookings will open on the 1st November and the Early Bird price of £82 will be available until the 5th January 2016 (saving £15).

Please visit the website at [eiff.org.uk](http://eiff.org.uk) for further details.

**Ron & Jean Wilks**



### **To Find a Good Home**

very old, but in reasonable condition - not worn for decades  
ANELLO AND DAVIDE character shoes - size 4, 1.5 inch heel,  
burgundy; cost of postage only. Toni 020 8533 0054

**Toni Gutman**



### **Balkanplus**

The November Balkanplus will be held on the 14th November at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. The MC will be Jill Bransby with Rainmakers. Admission £8.

**Maureen Felton**



## **Arthur Mills – 1926 – 2015**

Arthur was dancing International Folk dance at Cecil Sharp House in his twenties, before he met his wife Beryl. In 1973 they were both founder members of the Bromley International Class. They both loved English and International dancing, sharing this wonderful interest for many years.

Arthur was a keen member of YHA and spent many weekends cycling and rambling, he even cycled 14 miles to his work in the City! He was a keen and skilful table-tennis player, and was very musical. He enjoyed playing the mouth organ, accordion and even church organs.

His wife Beryl told me that Arthur and Wilf Horrocks got together to practice accordion: “Every Monday, they met in Wilf’s house one week and ours the next, for a couple of hours music practice together. I used to be either in the garden or another room and it was lovely to hear the folk dance music coming from indoors”.

In later years increasing deafness curtailed many of Arthur’s active pursuits, but he was still dancing at Beckenham Folk Dancing Club right up until July of this year. He lived a long life full of activities music and dance and will be fondly remembered as “one of Nature’s gentlemen”.

**Fiona Howarth**



## **Mavis Lowe 1930 - 2015**

It is with sadness that the Heart of England group has to inform members that Mavis Lowe has recently passed away.

She was a devotee of the SIFD and encouraged others to join. She regularly enjoyed Roy Clarke’s weekends and visits to Halsway Manor. She will be missed by our group and by other societies where she was an enthusiastic member, particularly in birdwatching and walking.

**Judy Morris**

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"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



## Short Dancing & Walking Breaks with Phil & Brenda

Apr 4th / 8th 2016 Monday to Friday

4 Night International Folk Dancing with walking led by Phil and Brenda Steventon.

There will be dancing in the morning and evening. The four to five mile afternoon walks will be led by an HF walking leader.

The holiday is at HF Holidays, Selworthy, Somerset TA24 8TJ.

Oct 7th / 10th 2016 Friday to Monday:

3 Night International Folk Dancing with walking led by Phil and Brenda Steventon

There will be dancing in the morning and evening. The four to five mile afternoon walks will be led by an HF walking leader.

The holiday is at HF Holidays, Bourton on the Water, Oxfordshire GL54 2BY.

For details of both of these holidays ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil and Brenda on 020 8397 9649

**Phil & Brenda Steventon**

Letter: from Robert Harrold, 4 Breakspeare, 94 College Road. London.  
SE21 7NB. 020-8693-7753

Dear Janet,

Do you think anyone would be interested in old folk dance magazines?  
The Folklorist - published in Manchester 1960 - 1964. (15 copies) same  
size as the SIFD News. Interesting articles, photos, etc.

Anyone who collects folk material might like them. They are not heavy  
but the cost to just cover the postage would be appreciated.



I don't know anything about Henry Baldrey who ran a Folk Dance  
Centre in Manchester. What has happened to him and the magazine - I  
wonder if anyone knows.

I always think we don't have a SIFD Reference Library where books  
etc. can be collected. But where, cost, who looks after it, etc. Just a  
thought.

You do a good job with the mag - many thanks. All good wishes,

**Robert Harrold**



Dear Janet

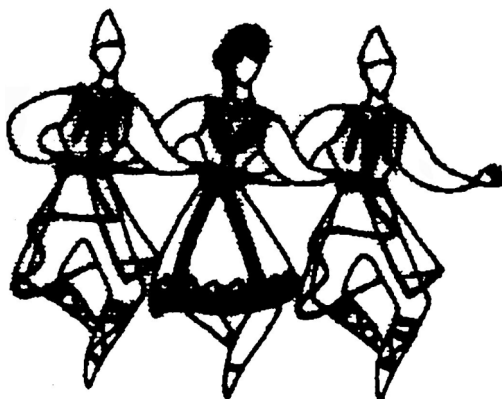
I have been asked to dispose of a lifelong collection (not mine!) of  
Balkan music, mainly Bulgarian and Macedonian. There are  
approximately 50 LPs. 70 VHS video cassettes, and 90 audio cassettes -  
- some from various dance courses, but most just Balkan music. There  
are also various costume bits and pieces, again Bulgarian and  
Macedonian, including 2 pairs of opanci (?) size 34, and a beautifully  
painted wooden Macedonian wine-carrier.

We don't want money for these things, just a good home.

If anyone is interested, please phone or e-mail and we can give more  
detail and work out how to get them to you.

**Hilda Sturge**

telephone: 0117 962 1802 e-mail: roger@rogersturge.me.uk



## WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

- S.I **Saturday 7th BALKAN DAY 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 **Sunday 8th SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- S.I **Saturday 14th BALKANPLUS** see page 8
- S.I **Sat 21st–Sun 22nd 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 email your request to cathy\_meunier@hotmail.com. Website www.balkanfolkdance.org.
- S.I **Friday 20th ARMENIAN WORKSHOP WITH DALILA HEATH** hosted by Rainmakers IFDG, 8-10.30pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £5.00 for the evening. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).



*All material for the December issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17<sup>th</sup> November.*