

The monthly newsletter of the Society for International Folk Dancing



SIFD NEWS
December 2015

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Dalila Heath has printed, stapled, packaged and posted this issue, as she has done all year in addition to dealing with electronic copies and membership details; a big undertaking. So I would like to thank her for another year of working on the News (you wouldn't receive it without her) and papering over the cracks (!).

Happy Christmas

The front cover has pictures of the Bognor group in Polish costume, Serbian and Mexican dancers from Billingham (*by Pam Rayment*) and one from Summer School (*Roger Sturge*). A Lithuanian group - Seltinis - are pictured on the back page.

Ed.



December SIFD Afternoon Course

Sunday 13th December Afternoon at Cecil Sharp House: Romanian with Janet Woolbar.

2pm to approx 5.30.

We had a wonderful time at Summer School, but can anyone still remember all the dances?

Here's a chance to practice, polish or learn for the first time, a selection from the dances taught by Marius and Maria.

In February Phil and Brenda Steventon will teach a selection from the general course.

If you have special requests please contact Janet or Phil & Brenda.

A few months ago we ran a short (15 minute) pre-dance waltz workshop. If you would like to come a bit early to practice something please email Jeanette with your request - or your offer to teach. It would be good to have lots of requests and offers so we can plan a programme for next year.

Jeanette Hull

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 & share lunch Cost £5. Contact Greg on 07810181273 or gregboyd99@aol.com

S.I **Jan. 9 BALKANPLUS** MC will be Maggie O'Regan

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 or 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 or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX www.balkanfolkdance.org

S.I **Feb. 5–6 BALKAN INSTRUMENTAL DAY COURSE** with musician Maya Buckley. Livermead House Hotel, Torquay. £30 (no charge for hotel residents on the Rivieradance! 2016 holiday). All instruments welcome. Instrumentalists are invited to play for part of the social dance on Saturday evening. Resources for the course will be provided in advance. Pre-booking is essential. For details and a booking form please contact Cathy Meunier email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com website: www.balkanfolkdance.org or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX

Feb. 27-28 PONTIC DANCE WORKSHOP with Kyriakos Moisisdis 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.

Apr 4-8 4 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING WITH WALKING led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing in the morning & evening. 4- 5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader at HF Holidays, Selworthy, Somerset TA24 8TJ.



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.*



Croxley Green International Folk Dancing

Joyce Sharp ran two classes in Croxley Green for many years - one on a Wednesday evening and another on a Friday afternoon. Some years ago Mona Graham took over the Friday class and the Wednesday one has been run by me. There is the opportunity to have the Friday class earlier in the day which I will now run instead of the Wednesday evening. Mona has not been well, numbers have been dwindling, mostly the same people attend both classes and prefer to go in the day rather than the evening.

So - our last Wednesday class will be on 11th November and from Friday 13th November the class will run from 11am to 12.30pm at the Community Centre, Croxley Green. Please ring me on 01923 210876 for any more information.

Meryl Abraham



Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 12th December at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MC will be Zivko Firfov with Dunav. Admission £8.

Maureen Felton

What a Triumph!

This year's Dance Around the World was the best ever. How does Anne Leach deal with the colossal task of administration for this occasion, manage to be in every location at once, listen to queries, deal with problems and give friendly greetings, and, on top of everything, MC the Sunday Dance? The Society should give huge honour and recognition to her for giving us this truly International Folk Dance event.

The problem for visitors was "where to go?" there were so many excellent performances and so many tempting workshops. Another attraction was the café where freshly made food was on offer. One cook had to come in early to meet the demand for the lemon drizzle cake, and the fresh cream sponge was equally delicious.

I can only write about what I saw but here are a few comments. There was a strong Baltic representation with Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia giving us genuine folk dance. The Maoris thrilled us again with their amazing quivering hands and melodic singing, plus terrifying shouts and gestures from the men. The Philhelines Greek Group gave a performance of Macedonian dances and a great workshop of simple elements from many regions. Balkanplus prepared us for the evening dance with a popular workshop, and the Dance, with Dunav, was a great success, winning over new people who had never done Balkan dance before.

Now there is a lift at the House the wheelchair dancers were able to entertain us. It was inspiring to see them doing dos-si-dos, promenade and all the familiar moves. Tanec gave us an exhilarating 20 minutes of energetic Bulgarian dances, with intricate footwork at high speed. The audience was left breathless. We enjoyed Polish and Hungarian groups on both days. On Sunday Zywiec [Polish] and Eszterlanc [Hungarian] included delightfully unspoiled children dancing confidently, growing up with their own traditions.

For me the highlight of the weekend was a circle of young girls from the Guildford Hungarian Groups, performing their traditional unaccompanied singing and dancing. Magda had told us about these wonderful dances and I saw them year's ago in her Group, but I had never expected to find such a treasure in England nowadays!

The girls moved in a tight circle, changing step and direction. They sang as they danced, then sometimes we could only hear the rhythm of their feet. The whole hall was spellbound. Magical!

There were of course many others who contributed to this occasion. I can only mention a few, but our main thanks are due to Anne and Caspar for giving us this annual celebration of Folk Culture. Those of you who did not attend this year – do make a decision to go next time.

Fiona Howarth



Balkan Instrumental Music Workshop with Maya Buckley

Livermead House Hotel Torquay

Friday 5th - Saturday 6th February 2016

This workshop is for instrumentalists who would like to discover more about the wonderful melodies and exciting rhythms of Balkan folk dance music. The main workshop is on Saturday, but you are also welcome to join an informal session on Friday afternoon if you wish. Resources for the course will be provided in advance of the workshop so that you can familiarise yourself with the music beforehand. All instruments are welcome. The workshop is from 10am to 5pm. You are also invited and encouraged to stay for the evening social dance and play for some of the dances if you wish. There may be an opportunity to try a few tunes from other countries as well.

Cost: £30

This event is part of the Rivieradance! 2016 Folk Dance Holiday with world-renowned teachers Roberto Bagnoli (Balkan folk dance) and Vincent Parodi (Israeli folk dance). Wednesday 3rd – Monday 8th February) www.balkanfolkdance.org

For full details and a booking form please contact Cathy Meunier email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com website: www.balkanfolkdance.org or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX

Cathy Meunier

Olivera Vasic

We would like to pass on the sad news of the passing of Olivera Vasic to the SIFD members who remember her. Olivera taught Serbian dances at the 1985 Summer school. We met her again more recently at the conferences of the group of academics that we are part of who study music and dance in south eastern Europe.

Liz & Nick

The following words were written by our close friend and research colleague Selena Rakocevic who was a pupil and later colleague of Olivera's at the Serbian Institute of Musicology in Belgrade:

“Dear colleagues, dear friends,

We are very sad to inform you that Dr. Olivera Vasic, professor of the Faculty of Music, University of Arts in Belgrade passed away yesterday (28th October). As an ethnochoreologist, Olivera Vasic devoted all her life to folk dance research. Based on intensive long-life field research she published dozen of ethnochoreological papers and more than ten books about folk dance in Serbia. She taught Ethno-choreology at the Cathedra of ethnomusicology for almost 25 years and was the head of the Centre for Folk Dance Research from 1990. Her contribution in the field of research, teaching ethnochoreology and creating the policy of stage production of folk dance in Serbia is immeasurable. May she rest in peace.
Selena Rakocevic”



A Date For Your Diary

Here is a new date for your 2016 diary:

4th - 6th November 2016 Turgay Onatli teaching Turkish folk dances at Cliff College Calver, Derbyshire

I had great feedback from his weekend in September, so am delighted that he has found a space in his busy schedule to come back next year. He says he'd like to bring some new dances for next time! (More details to follow).

Cathy Meunier

Dear Janet,

David Dewhurst's cover (Nov. News) reflects the extent of interest in Polish dance at that time, it was considerable.

So for any members who would like to know more of Polish 'Folk Culture' than that seen on stage, represented by the five so-called National Dances, a book which I do not recall being reviewed in the News will be a revelation. The Folk Dance and Costume Atlas of Poland; by Henryk Matyka; divides the country into thirty-nine regions or chapters, each with history, geography, people, dances, costumes, music and customs. There are many black and white drawings, in all more than five hundred pages, hard bound and published in 1991; ISBN 09518203 0 3.

Mr. Matyka wrote occasionally to the News, was he I wonder a member? His book can only be regarded as a wonderful tribute to his country.

Roy Clark



SIFD Monthly Dance

Monthly Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre Sunday 13th
December 7pm - 10pm

The last SIFD Sunday Dance of 2015 will be led by Jill Bransby, and Fiona Howarth will be leading the Interval.

Dances start again on 3rd January at Primrose Hill and after that will be on the first Sunday of the month except May and August when there will be no dance.

Anne Maddocks



Christmas Pics

Last year I asked you to take seasonal photos to grace this very issue! (with tinsel, tree, candles, snow etc.)

It seems I was the only one to do so; I took this photo of Maggie O'Regan last year when she came down to Bognor Regis to give us a workshop.

You must try harder! Get out your camera and get busy! (*for December 2016*)

Even better if you can find someone wearing a costume.

Ed.



below, see page 12



Dear Janet,

I can tell you something about Lt-Col Henry Baldrey.* He lived in Chorlton, Manchester 21, and ran an international folkdance class in Old Trafford. The former leader of our Barlow group, Alan Williams, was a member, but when the group folded he did not feel able to take over at that time. However, he was also in the demonstration group of the Manchester Scottish Society and went with them to the continent and learned dances of theirs, so eventually felt able to pass them on by forming an evening class at the Barlow Evening Centre. When this became the independent Barlow Group Col. Baldrey was invited to become the President, and remained so until his death a few years later. We had our committee meetings at his house, between two big old houses which he also owned as he liked to know who his neighbours were! He and his wife rented them out to very carefully selected lady students. He was fond of saying that he was proud to have had two Silver Weddings, his first wife having died. His second wife was interested in Manx dancing and taught us several.

I have 19 copies of 'The Folklorist' starting slightly before Robert Harrold's set, but ending with Winter 1963/64. I wonder if this was the last one? Col. Baldrey's son-in-law was a printer hence the smart turnout of the magazine. The editor was a church youth club friend of mine who sadly died young so can not help with dates. Neither can Alan Williams, whom some of the older SIFD people may remember, as he died earlier this year.

Sadly, I never got to the International Folk Dance Festival held annually in the late lamented Free Trade Hall in Manchester, but I hear it was a spectacular sight. I have here a list of the countries involved in the ninth festival in 1958. China, England, Estonia, Hungary, India, Isle of Man, Latvia, Malaya, Poland, Scotland, Wales & Yugoslavia. Margaret Orme, the magazine editor told me once it was a job trying to keep separate the different nationalities who did not like each other!

Philip Lloyd

* see November issue

Dear Janet,

While on holiday in Crete at the end of September, I was delighted to find a shop selling Cretan national dress near the centre of Heraklion. They kindly allowed me to take some photos and gave me several copies of their leaflet, showing costumes for all ages and occasions which they stock. I understood, in Greek/Anglaise with gestures that the lady who owns the shop makes some of them herself. (She was out and her husband did his best to explain)



I put a leaflet on our lunch table, a little later, to show my fellow holiday makers, when a young lady waitress leant over and excitedly called a young man over and gestured at the leaflet. She was very pleased at our interest in the costumes and, flushed with happy memories, said she'd worn her great, great grandmother's costume recently.

It was the same as that shown at the top left hand corner (*pictured left*). She was amazed to hear the Heraklion shop was selling it for 850 euros but agreed it was worth every cent.

I'm sending you some of the leaflets, in case they're of interest to other readers (*contact Ed.*). I'm returning next September and will be happy to undertake missions etc. if anyone would like to send me requests. (address: 2 Bardsey Walk, Guisborough, TS14 7EA.

In the meantime, their website address is: www.crete-art.gr

I found three venues with Greek/Cretan dancing. One was an organised trip costing 40 euros, where up to 700 guests could be accommodated.

I was reliably informed by someone who went that the dancing was largely stylised, presenting some of the myths and legends of the island.

*right:
(another picture from the
leaflet; and see one of
children on page 10)*

The second was a local restaurant which seemed to be of the plate smashing / conga variety.

And the third was in a nearby village which was meant to be more traditional, and I'll look forward to seeing that next year.

Pam Rayment



Archives

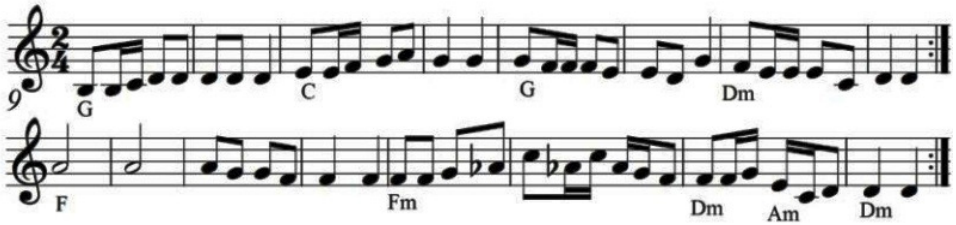
Firstly I'd like to thank Naren Kotiyan for his generous donation to the SIFD of a huge bag of dance videos, with my thanks also to Caroline Thomas who produced a list of the contents.

We also have a huge collection of donated dance notes, and will scan so they can be used, but we need help - if you have a bit of spare time and could work through lots of pdf files - re-naming and listing them please contact me. It's a boring job that needs to be done carefully, no dance knowledge is needed and we're willing to pay for the work.

Jeanette Hull

Ramno Veleško

Yugoslavia



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Ramno Veleško is a followable dance from the Skopje Region of Macedonia, often danced during weddings.

I am sure many of you will know the next one of Wilf's tunes to be featured - **Ersko Kolo** - how many people remember the first time they learnt/danced it?

Ed.



Dancing at Dunford 18th - 20th December

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, with single, twin and double bedrooms, all being en-suite, 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



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WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- S.I **Friday 11th 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
- S.I **Saturday 12th BALKANPLUS MC** see page 5
- S.I **Sunday 13th SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** see page 3
- S.I **Sunday 13th SIFD DANCE** see page 9
- S.I **Friday 18th RAINMAKERS CHRISTMAS DANCE**, 8 –10.45 pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).
- Fri. 18th-Sun.20th DANCING AT DUNFORD** see page 14
- S.I **Tuesday 29th 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.



*All material for the January issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by the *15th December*.*