

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



January 2016

Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO21 3EQ.

Tel: 01243 265010 *sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk*

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

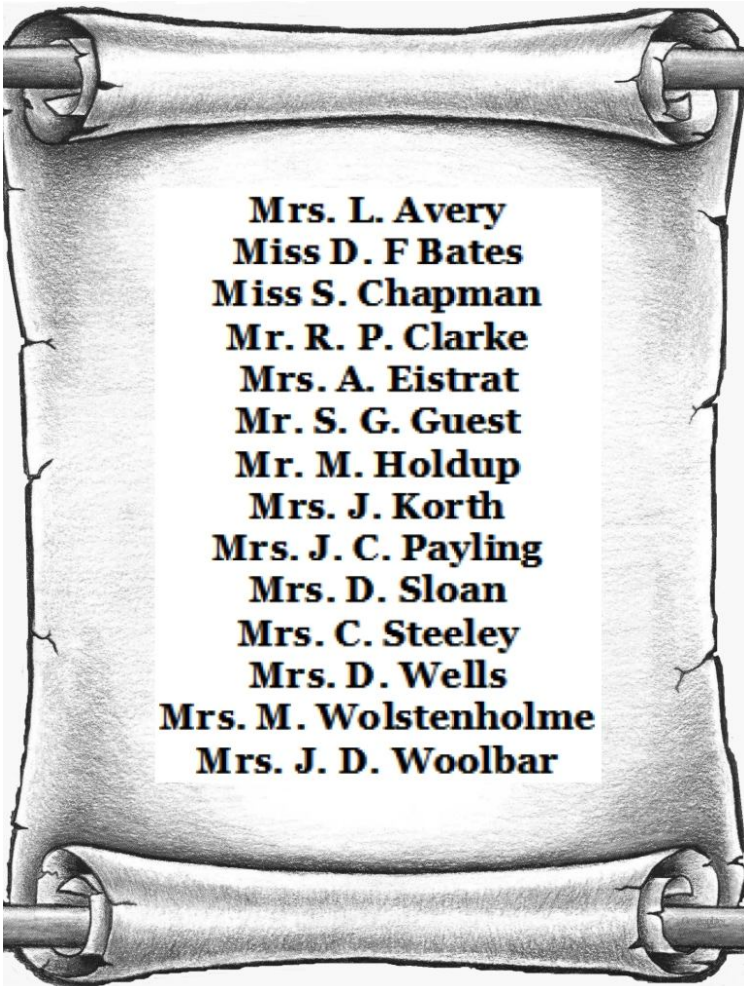
Reg. Charity No. 284509

To mark the 70th Anniversary of our Society Roy Clarke is preparing a series of articles taken from the early issues of the SIFD News; the first instalment is on page 6.

Our 2016 list of Honorary members appears below; the cover page and motif is my offering for the 70th Anniversary.

A Terpsichordial New Year to All

Ed.



**Mrs. L. Avery
Miss D. F Bates
Miss S. Chapman
Mr. R. P. Clarke
Mrs. A. Eistrat
Mr. S. G. Guest
Mr. M. Holdup
Mrs. J. Korth
Mrs. J. C. Payling
Mrs. D. Sloan
Mrs. C. Steeley
Mrs. D. Wells
Mrs. M. Wolstenholme
Mrs. J. D. Woolbar**

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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 see below.
- S.I **Feb. 7 SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 11
- 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. 13 BALKANPLUS** MC will be Bob Robinson
- 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.
- S.I **Mar. 19 DANCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD** with Philip and Brenda Steventon at Nutbrook IFDG. Grangewood Methodist Church, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2SJ. 10.30 am - 4.30 pm. £10, half day £6. For further information: 0115 917 1831, gill.morral@ntlworld.com, www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk. No prebooking needed.

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

Apr. 4-8 4 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING & 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. For details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

- S.I **Apr. 10. GREEK ISLAND DANCES:** Dimitris Triandafyllidis will be teaching dances from Paros, Naxos, Tsia (Kea) and Kythnos at St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LB (just off the A23), 10:30 – 16:30. £30 including refreshments. Contact Cherry Allen(0208 556 5741) or ron.cherry.allen@gmail.com
- S.I **Apr. 14 OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO** 8:15-10:15 . £5.00. usual dancing evening with Vasil Gerlimov. Oxford, OX2 6TN.
- S.I **Apr. 15 BULGARIAN WORKSHOP - VASIL GERLIMOV** £8. 8pm to 10.30pm at Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW (along the road from usual Barnet venue) Contact: Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com
- S.I **Apr. 16-17 BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WEEKEND** with Vasil Gerlimov see page 10

Apr.29-May 2 EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK FESTIVAL see page 13



*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.*



Past Pages - The Beginning

The following letter and article by Frances Brown (née Waight) appeared in the S.I.F.D. News of May 1954

An Historical Note

(The following article has been received from Frances Brown. In her accompanying letter she says:

“As May 4th is the 10th birthday of the Folk Dance Group at the International Youth Centre, Pont St. Chelsea, from which the S.I.F.D. was developed, I thought perhaps that members might be interested to read this account of its beginnings. I wrote this in September '44 to report to other members of the I.Y.C..... Nat came over to England as a 'G.I.' in 1943, and I who am English went to the U.S. for the first time in 1946 when the group blossomed into the S.I.F.D. - so the group was international even in its origin!”)

Folk Dancing

A notice was posted up at the Centre on Thursday, 4th May, asking any members who would be interested to join a Group of International Folk Dancing the following Sunday, to sign their names. On the Sunday, Nat Brown and I arrived to initiate the enthusiasts, but there were no names on the list! We were prepared for this, however, and had collected a good gathering of our own friends to start the ball rolling. We danced and taught some very gay dances from Scandinavia, Russia and Germany, and before very long people began to trickle in to see what all the fun was about.

The following Sunday we weren't able to take our full team of supporters, but sure enough members came in, in ones and twos, some looking interested, some scared, others slightly scornful, and very soon, although the newcomers said that they couldn't dance, or didn't know our dances, or hadn't the right shoes, the room was filled with couples whirling to our gay tunes. After that, success was assured, and the following week when we asked whether members would like to make the Group a regular Centre activity, there was a unanimous vote that it should be.

The Group has gone on growing, and in spite of summer holidays, the call of the country on sunny Sundays, and the dislocation to daily life caused by flying bombs, we still have a regular Group of about 10 couples who were the first enthusiasts, besides numerous casual visitors, many of whom have caught our enthusiasm and have come to stay.

On Thursday, 29th June, a team of about half a dozen couples, coached only once or twice at our Sunday gatherings, gave a short demonstration for the Centre's Birthday Celebrations. We danced simple couple and group dances from Russia, Scandinavia and Middle Europe and were enthusiastically received by the audience, who joined in the last encore at our invitation. This event brought us new members, and an introduction to John Sampson, who painted the lovely poster which now advertises the Group in the entrance hall.

The Group now has its own collection of records of some of the dances, and we have two pianists to play for us on alternate weeks, one being a member of the Centre - who very nobly filled a breach one week when we were without any music, and now plays our tunes with a most stimulating rhythm and vigour.

We started the Group with dances which Nat had learnt with an International Folk Dance Group in New York, but we hope very much that members will add to our repertoire, dances from their own countries. We have a unique opportunity now to collect more dances, and we shall welcome warmly any member who has any dances to contribute. We also have plans to invite National Groups now in London to dance with us and teach us their dances - they can teach us to dance, even though we may not be able to understand their language. A Hungarian Group has agreed to visit us on November 19th and we hope to welcome many others.

It is doubtful whether a mixed group of, for instance, Scandinavian, German, Czech and English people can really dance the Polish Cracoviak or the Hungarian Mazurka with the same spirit and vigour as they would be danced in Poland and Hungary, especially if taught by an English teacher - but I'm sure we can catch some of the feeling of the dances, especially if we are

able to persuade national groups to dance with us and teach us. Nat and I had two aims in starting the Group - firstly we loved folk dancing and wanted others to enjoy it too, and secondly we felt that much could be done to help the work of the Centre in increasing international understanding, through the social and cultural side of life.

Our efforts so far in teaching the simple dances which we knew have been richly rewarded by the enthusiasm and obvious enjoyment of the group. We have also already experienced much international co-operation and friendship in our small circle of dancers of various national ties, not to mention the co-operation between the New and the Old Worlds in having Nat to help start the group with dances which he had learnt from people of many different countries living in New York.

Frances Waight. Sept. 1944.



On reading the above one can see the debt owed, not only to Nat and Frances Brown, but also to those who joined them. Key words are; "enthusiasm and enjoyment"; yes indeed, however what came with many was their 'talents'; not only for dance and music, but administration, teaching, costume making, demonstrations, and a vision for the future by forming The Society for International Folk Dancing.

A national organisation not a club, although in effect that is what it was at the start, but not today. It is indeed a debt of gratitude we owe to them and their successors; too many indeed to name, though without the continuity of that vision, as necessary now as it was then, the SIFD would not be in its seventieth year. It seems that the date of the founding was September 1946.

Roy Clarke



Three Big Balkan Events in 2016

Going by the events I am personally involved with, 2016 looks like being a bumper year for Balkan dance fans. Have your new diaries at the ready now.

I am so pleased our friends at Oxford Balkansko Oro have organised a second Bulgarian workshop weekend by the eminent, yet affable **Vasil Gerlimov** because it presented me with the opportunity to invite him to Barnet on Friday 15th April. Vasil came with such a fine programme of dances on his first visit that I unhesitatingly recommend this session if you can't attend the Oxford weekend on the 16th and 17th. 8pm to 10.30pm at the Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW - just along the road from the Barnet group's usual venue. £8.

The June tour with **Iliana Bozhanova** – arguably the best folklore organiser in Bulgaria – is still open for bookings until the end of February. Whether your interest is dance or just to experience Bulgaria, you cannot do better than join our party. The current euro exchange rate makes this amazing trip incredibly good value and the plan is that Ron and Jean Wilks will produce a DVD of the whole adventure. Full details and booking form on www.balkanplus.org.uk

Finally, I can announce that Balkanplus is planning a weekend of Serbian dances on 12th and 13th November with **Vladimir ("Vladica") Tanasijevic** from Belgrade and accordionist **Sasha Smrekic** from Cacak. They were recommended to me by Yves Moreau who has worked with them in Europe where they are very popular. "Nice team. Good dances and energy" he says. Details later, but please write it indelibly in that diary now.

Happy New Year!

Brian Dowsett



Bulgarian Workshop Weekend

April 16 & 17

Bulgarian Workshop Weekend with eminent dance leader and choreographer Vasil Gerlimov from Stara Zagora at Oxford Balkansko Oro's hall in St. Margaret's Institute: Polstead Road, (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN.

Saturday workshop 10:30 to 4:30; break for dinner: 4:30 to 7:00; evening party: 7:00 to 10:00; Sunday workshop: 10:00 to 4:00.

Prices: Saturday workshop only: £20; Sunday workshop only: £20.00; Party £8.00 (children under 14: £3.00; children under 4: free). Whole weekend: £45.00; Advance booking received by 29th Feb: £40.00.

If possible it will be best to bring a packed lunch for the workshops. There are cafes and pubs in nearby Jericho for dinners. In addition Vasil will be teaching at the usual dancing evening 14th of April from 8:15 to 10:15 for £5.00.

For more information email: sallylhumphrey@gmail.com or charlotte@haenlein.co.uk

Sally Humphrey



Balkanplus

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 9th January at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.

MC will be Maggie O'Regan.
Admission £6.

Maureen Felton



Dear Janet,

Re your note of thanks to Dalila, I should also like to add my thanks and appreciation for all the work she does in getting the SIFD NEWS to us, but also to you, Janet, for producing such an excellent news-sheet. Ten years now since you took over! You may beat my record - I hope you do! *

Re Philip Lloyd's letter; I too have some old copies of "The Folklorist". The last one I have is dated "Autumn 1964" so that would be later than his "Winter 1963/64" which he thought might be the last one but the title on mine has been changed to "Folk Musician and Singer" (incorporating "The Folklorist" and "The Folk Dancer"). I don't know when and why the change took place but the magazine is exactly the same as before.
Regards,

Lily

- * I doubt it - who knows how much technology will advance in 27 years (?) editing the News could mean having a chip in your brain as you 'think' it through (I intend to keep my chip firmly on my shoulder)!

Ed.



SIFD Monthly Dance

SIFD Monthly Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre
Sunday 3rd January 7pm.

Celebrate a new dancing year with the January SIFD dance led by Jeanette Hull and the Committee.

The dance on 7th February will be led by Helen Ezra.

Anne Maddocks



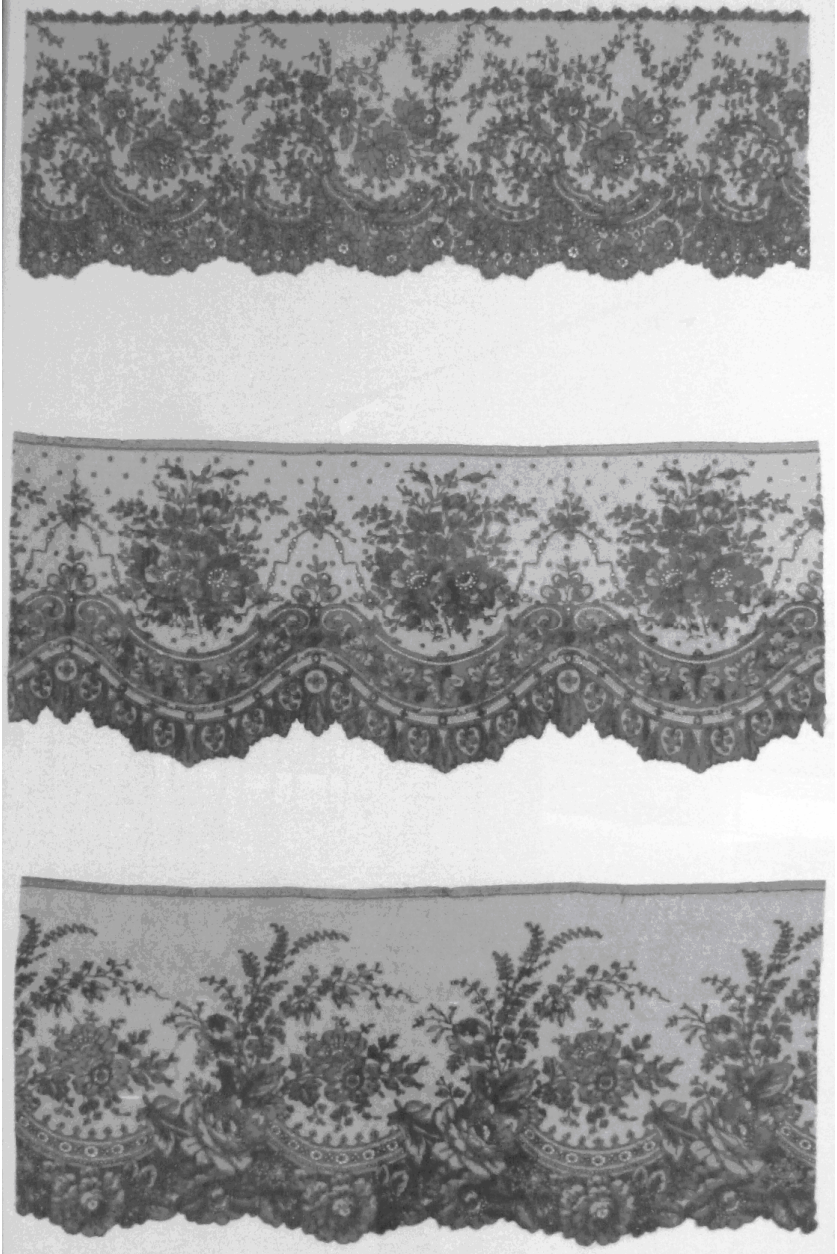


photo of antique Spanish black lace taken in Seville by Janet Douglas.

Eastbourne International Folk Festival

29th April - 2nd May 2016

The Early Bird discount is available until the 4th January - only a few days left to save £15 on the weekend tickets so book now! See www.eiff.org.uk for booking details.

The programme includes Eddy Tijssen, Esther Willems and Corry Verheijen covering a wide selection of dances from around the world for your enjoyment.

Too late for the early bird discount? Maureen (01823 401271) is still pleased to accept offers to assist with stewarding.

Ron & Jean Wilks



Kyriakos in Winchester Update

February 27 - 28th sees the visit of Kyriakos Moisidis to Winchester Discovery Centre, where Kyriakos will be teaching a weekend of dances drawn from his own Pontic heritage. The event will include a Saturday evening party of general Greek dances, and we are thrilled to welcome Nikos Ziarkas to join in the playing of live music. Hailing originally from Rhodes, Nikos is a professional musician who'll be accompanying Mike Machin in playing authentic sets of Greek island dances. Mike will also accompany some dances with Pontic Lyra.

While places on the weekend are still available, please note that we have been advised by Winchester tourist office that dancers should not delay in booking their accommodation as weekends in this historic city tend to book up fast!

Further info from Jacky Charbit-Middleton at charbitmiddleton@gmail.com or the following link:

<https://mikemachinmusic.wordpress.com/pontic-dance-workshop/>

Clyde Olliver

Ersko Kolo

Western Serbia

13

20

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Ersko Kolo was a favourite when my class were younger; indeed it was staple fare for primary school teachers back in the 80s. (actually translates as 'Pupils' Dance'). It's one of those dances that everybody knows - so nobody thinks there is any need to explain it:

- 8 heel steps to R. 8 heel steps to L. (repeat)
- 3 steps fwd. 3 steps back. 3 steps to R. 3 steps to L. (repeat)

The children used to find the music to the second, faster part exciting, so it was difficult to slow them down. **Ed.**



Halber Mond (Half Moon) from Germany will be printed in the next issue - over to you.

I hope someone has heard of it - I certainly have not.

Ed.



SIFD Committee

- Chair: Jeanette Hull 39 The Green, Morden, Surrey,
SM4 4HJ 07722 655481
jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk
- Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane,
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.
judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk
- Secretary: Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park,
Hatfield. AL9 7AQ
dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com tel: 01707
642774

Other Committee Members:

- Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340
4683 *caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk*
- Mary O'Mahony 11 Hartington Road, Chorlton, Manchester, M21
8UZ 01618 810955 *maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk*
- Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN
richard@mellish.eu 0208 863 7807
- John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67
8NU *j2ohn@yahoo.co* 01530 223957
- Holly Payling 4 Hobart Walk, St Albans, AL3 6LS 07784 117599
hollycp@hotmail.co.uk
- Naomi Ryder 13 Maun House, 1 Dunn Street, Dalston, London
E8 2DG *naomiryder@hotmail.co.uk* 07920 424575

Contact the SIFD at mail@sifd.org



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

- S.I **Sunday 3rd SIFD DANCE** see page 11
- S.I **Sunday 3rd NEW YEARS PARTY** Balkan Dance Party at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR from 12.00 to 16.30. Bring & share lunch. Cost £5. Contact Greg on 07810181 or gregboyd99@aol.com
- S.I **Saturday 9th BALKANPLUS** see page 10
- S.I **Saturday 30th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, St. Margaret`s Institute, Polstead Rd. (Off Woodstock Rd), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 7:00-10:30. Food & drink provided. CDs & Dunav. Adults: £10; children under 14: £3. under 4: free. information email: sallylhumphrey@gmail.com or charlotte@haenlein.co.uk



Calling All Old Rainmakers!

Perhaps I should re-word that! Calling all former members of Rainmakers. This year is our 40th Anniversary year. We would like to hear from as many of our former members as possible – you can contact me at markbalaam2@sky.com. If you know any former members who might not receive the SIFD News, perhaps you could let them know.

We will be holding our Anniversary Dance on Saturday 10th September 2016, which is the actual 40th Anniversary of the first evening the Club met.

It would be nice to catch up with as many former members as possible on 10th September. at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3TG. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).

Mark Balaam Secretary