

# SIFD NEWS

The monthly newsletter of the Society for  
International Folk Dancing



# MARCH 2016

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News  
Events  
Articles  
Information

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Thanks to Judith Payling for a new Anniversary front cover design for this month. A photo from last century of Rainmakers is on the back page (they celebrate their 40th Anniversary this year).

Roy Clarke continues his Past Pages saga with “The News and Music” on page 8.



I found this photo of Austrian dancers (cerca 1935) in a collection that I copied for Julie Korth. It looks like they are having so much fun; does anyone know which dance they are doing? I should love to be able to pass it on to my group.

**Ed.**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### S.I **Apr. 3 SIFD SUNDAY DANCE**

**Apr. 4-8 4 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING WITH WALKING** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing: morn. & eve. 4-5 m. walks led by HF walking leader at HF Holidays, Selworthy, Somerset TA24 8TJ. tel: 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

### S.I **Apr. 9 BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be Fiona Howarth & Ursula Brown

**Apr. 9-10 BELCO STANEV** - Bulgarian folk dances in Sheffield. Weekend dance course £45. 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.

**Apr. 10. GREEK ISLAND DANCES** Dimitris Triandafyllidis - dances from Paros, Naxos, Tsia (Kea) & Kythnos at St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd. Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LB (off A23), 10:30-16:30. £30 ron.cherry.allen@gmail.com or Cherry Allen: 0208 556 5741

**Apr. 14 OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO** 8:15 to 10:15 for £5.00. usual dancing evening with Vasil Gerlimov. Oxford, OX2 6TN.

**Apr. 15 BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WITH 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

**Apr. 16-17 BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WEEKEND** with Vasil Gerlimov at St. Margaret's Institute: Polstead Rd. (off Woodstock Rd), Oxford, OX2 6TN. Sat w/shop 10:30 - 4:30; (break for dinner 4:30- 7) eve. party: 7-10; Sun. w/shop: 10-4. Prices: Sat. w/shop only: £20; Sun. w/shop only: £20. Party £8. (children under 14: £3.; under 4: free). Whole weekend: £45. bring packed lunch for w/shops. information email: sallylhumphrey@gmail.com or charlotte@haenlein.co.uk

**Apr. 22-25 GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (near Alcester, Warwickshire) International Dancing with Karin Bellaart. Other varied dancing, music, handbells, Maypole, singing, walking and cycling. For further information see website at www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.

S.I **Apr. 29-May. 2 (3) SIFD MAY DAY WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor  
**Apr. 29-May. 2 EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK FESTIVAL** 01823  
401271 or [www.eiff.org.uk](http://www.eiff.org.uk)

**Jun.11 DANCE WITH CATHY MEUNIER IN DERBYSHIRE** in  
Calver Village Hall, Derbyshire S32 3XR. 10.30-16.30. Cost £10. Bring  
own lunch, drinks provided. [j.king194@btinternet.com](mailto:j.king194@btinternet.com) 01629 57065

S.I **Sep. 10 RAINMAKERS 40th ANNIVERSARY DANCE.** 7.45-11pm  
at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Herts,  
SG5 3TG. More info from Roger 01438 812766 or Mark 01462 454210

S.I **Sep. 24 SIFD 2016 AGM** will be in Nottingham.

**Oct. 7-10 3 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,  
Bourton on the Water, Oxfordshire GL54 2BY. For details ring HF on  
0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649



*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.*



## **Balkanplus**

The March Balkanplus will be held on the 12th March at Cecil Sharp  
House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.

MCs will be Oxford Balkansko Oro. Admission £6.

**Maureen Felton**



## **Dimitri Feary Jan 1928-Jan 2016**

The death was announced in the January edition of the death of Dimitri Feary founder of the Oxford Balkan dance group Balkansko Oro.

Dimitri came to Balkan dance from a wide interest in the ethnography and history of the Balkans with a special interest in and a lasting affection for Serbia.

As a young man in the early 1950's he joined a volunteer working party to travel to eastern Serbia to help with reconstruction of roads and railways destroyed by war.

He already had a working knowledge of Russian and was a member of the Russian Orthodox Church. With this background he was very soon fluent in Serbian and was quickly accepted into the local community.

It was during that early stay in Serbia that he first became interested in traditions and folklore, the annual calendar of rituals and festivals, and the importance of music and dance.

Back in Oxford he found a Serbian community who had a lively monthly social meeting and a small performance dance group. In a very short time he became their dance leader.

Around 1960 he met Anne Pennington, an academic with a keen interest in Balkan languages and literature and, above all folk traditions. They founded Balkansko Oro to promote all areas of Balkan ethnic culture.

When "Tanec" came to London (1962?) he spent time with them acting as interpreter and joining their practice sessions. Some of the dances he brought back to Oxford are still in our repertoire today.

He was an inspirational dance leader and his interest were those of an anthropologist with knowledge of subjects as diverse as obscure points of Old Slavonic grammar to the embroidery of a shirt sleeve or the merits of a good slivovitsa.

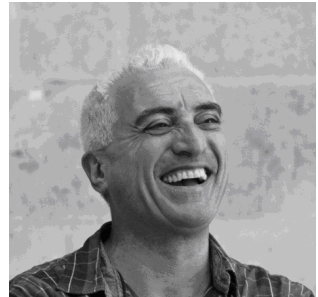
With his great sense of mischief and a wry 'Balkan' humour he seemed to attract unusual and often bizarre situations and almost everyone who knew him will have their own 'Dimitri' story and remember his laughter.

**Jill Loveday.** Oxford Balkansko Oro

## **Turkish Folk Dance Course with Turgay Onatli**

Friday 4th – Sunday 6th November

If you would like to discover the wonderfully rich variety of music and dance from Turkey (or “Anatolia” as Turgay calls it), then there is probably no better teacher to learn from than Turgay Onatli. We have thoroughly enjoyed his past courses and he plans to bring a new programme of dances this time. No doubt we will also have an opportunity to dance some “gems” from his previous courses. So we are delighted that he is able to fit a trip to the UK into his busy schedule. The venue is the delightful village of Calver in Derbyshire in the Peak District National Park and the course will take place in Cliff College. You can choose to stay in the college, or you can attend the course non-residentially.



Turgay Onatli started folk dancing in Istanbul when he was 8. He moved to Holland in 1984 and worked as a dance instructor, choreographer and musician. Since then he has taught all over Europe, in the US and Canada, and in Taiwan, and has become a renowned and popular dance teacher. He plays traditional Turkish instruments - Zurna, Saz and Darvul (big drum). He also has good recorded music with a variety of both authentic and other arrangements, so that we can enjoy his music and dances afterwards.

The weekend starts on Friday with an evening meal at 6:00 pm and finishes with Sunday lunch at 1:30pm. The cost of the weekend course is £55 for participants staying at Cliff College and £65 for non-residents. Full board accommodation at Cliff College is £135 (twin or double); £145 (single). All the rooms are of a high standard with ensuite facilities and tea and coffee is available throughout the weekend.

There are a limited number of places on this course. Please book early if you want to be sure of a place. For full details and a booking form contact Cathy Meunier email [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com) tel 017687 73117 or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX. Website: [balkanfolkdance.org](http://balkanfolkdance.org).

**Cathy Meunier**

## **The News and Music**

Keeping members informed of dances, classes and important issues is essential, initially, word of mouth must have sufficed, but something better was needed and the secretary (Henry Schuster) produced letters. The first available dated March 1947 announces the AGM, autumn dances and Y.H.A. weekend. Marie le Fort as secretary must have produced Members Newsheet No. 1 for January 1948, it is not available but No. 2 for February is and comprehensive; reporting a demonstration (using hired Swedish Costumes) at Westminster Central Hall to a gathering of several hundred Grammar School pupils, another at Institut Française du Romane - Uni, and a publicity leaflet had been printed. For February there was a General Meeting, lists of dances and Mr. Herman from the USA would be visiting and teaching Polish dances.

By May there were requests, reports (Estonian friends had given instruction) and the dance programme was in tabulated form. The August issue gave notice of a dance at Imperial College, those at Drury Lane, but the one at Cecil Sharp House on September 5th would be like a Birthday Party since it corresponded to the second birthday of the Society, Bert Price would be M.C. A Premises Fund had been launched with £50. November's issue had a drawn front cover, (no mention of the artist - was it the editor / secretary?) thus setting the pattern. Christmas Cards had been produced for sale, Audrey Hancock was the artist. December reported that there would be demonstrations at Westminster Central Hall and Eastbourne; both for the Council for Education in World Citizenship.

So the first year of the News clearly shows the rapid and successful development of the Society.

The pattern for 1949 was similar; with the November issue including a report by David Rasbash on the Congress and Festival of the International Folk Music Council held in Venice, and an article (to be reproduced later) by Philip Thornton.

August 1951 had an announcement from the Chairman Charles Fawkes and the Treasurer Bert Price, that the Secretary of the United Nations



Student Association had asked the Society to assist him in organising a Folk Dancing evening at the Royal Albert Hall on 22nd October. The U.N.S.A. had invited the following Embassies to take part: India, Indonesia, Turkey, Iran, China, and Brazil. The first two had offered full co-operation. The Society had promised a party of Polish and Estonian dancers; Jack McConachie would do two solo dances and Patrick Shuldham-Shaw would lead and call an American Square.

Dances need music, firstly it came from records and pianists; accordianists soon followed. Of the former we know of Irene Hales, Gladys Noble, Bert Price and Marion Hill; and of the latter; Mourie Pfeffer and Henry Schuster (he formed a small band for Cecil Sharp dances), by 1950 the name Jim Titherage and band appears. In 1948 Frank Snell had assisted with the acquisition of an outfit: pickup, turntable, amplifier, two loudspeakers and a microphone.

However records were a problem, 78s being prone to needle damage, wear and limited to one or two dances per side. They are heavy, need careful handling, transport and storage. For a dance several had to be brought, with the equally weighty equipment. Somehow copies were made (I guess with the help of Jack Richardson), and Eugene Jablonski in particular was generous; bringing and donating; “forty in one instance”, on visits from the USA.

Production of records began, the “Walace Collection”; Bill Wallace violin, Alan Humberstone piano and Frank Hawkins accordion being helpful and popular. Jack Richardson was responsible for the recording and production. One remains grateful to them.

Next month: “Weekends Away”.

**Roy Clarke**



There is a photograph of Bert Price and Pug Cyriax from way back when on the next page.

**Ed**



## Letters.

I have a book to offer any SIFD member. Published in 1968, it has pages of beautiful black-and-white photographs of Black Forest traditional costume, with text in English, French and German. I will send it to anyone for the price of the postage (£1.51) large letter under 500gm. First come first served. Telephone me on 020 8527 4896 or email [carolinejthomas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:carolinejthomas@yahoo.co.uk)

**Caroline Thomas**  
77 Forest Road  
London E17 6HF  
020 8527 4896



I have found it very interesting reading about the early years of SIFD by Frances Brown and Roy Clarke and Lily Avery.

In this February issue Roy says that we were founded as ISFD at a formal meeting in July 1946, which is interesting in this anniversary year.

But in your note on page 3 you give the date as Sunday 5th September 1946, which can't be right, as that was a Thursday\*, which leaves me confused. Best wishes,

**Charles Collingwood**



\* umm... another case of Chinese whispers?

**Ed.**



**Oxford Balkansko Oro** would like to thank Dunav and all who came to the January party and helped to make it such an enjoyable occasion.

## **Rivieradance! 2017**

We had a very enjoyable dance holiday at Rivieradance! 2016 with Vincent, Roberto, Maya and Heli. Several people have already been asking me for the dates for the next one. So here they are:

Wednesday 8th - Monday 13th February 2017

and the teachers are:

Yves Moreau - Bulgarian and Balkan folk dance

Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion - Romanian folk dance

France Bourque-Moreau - International folk dance

Maya Buckley - Balkan Instrumental workshop

Heli Baxter - Balkan folk songs

Yves and Cristian have both already been in touch with me to say how much they are looking forward to it.

There will be more information to follow when the bookings are opened, and I will add the same information to my website:

[www.balkanfolkdance.org](http://www.balkanfolkdance.org)

**Cathy Meunier**



### **The Ursula/Fiona Combo**

The Balkanplus meeting on April 9th will feature Ursula Brown and Fiona Howarth as twin MCs. This is Ursula's debut appearance and she will be bringing her own choice of familiar and "plus" items. We shall include some of the Swansea dances, many old favourites that don't need walking through, and a few "unexpected items in the dancing area".

However, should a group of complete beginners turn up, as happened on February 13th, we are prepared with a CD of accessible dances which can be inserted into the programme.

We look forward to seeing you for the evening.

**Ursula and Fiona**



## **Traditional Albanian Folk Dances - Summer seminar**

10th—21st of July with Genc Kastrati and Besnik Grajcevc.

Day 1: arrival at Tirana. Hotel Theranda, welcome dinner.

Day 2: morning class at the Opera, afternoon free, evening dinner party

Day 3: dance class, Mirdita in afternoon, dinner in Mirdita

Day 4: Traditional wedding in Mirdita, dinner in Prishtina

Day 5: Dance classes, ethnographical museum of Prishtina, dinner

Day 6: Dance classes, free time afternoon, evening dinner

Day 7: Dance classes, free time afternoon, lecture, dinner

Day 8: Dance classes, picnic, evening dance class

Day 9: Leave for Tirana, visit Prizren on the way, dinner Tirana

Day 10: Dance class, lunch, excursion to Kruja, dinner party Kruja

Day 11: Final dance class. Freetime, evening farewell party

Day 12: Leaving for Tirana airport

The price for the seminar will be 975 Euro per person, based on sharing a twin or double room in the hotels (single room is + 200 Euro).

Breakfast and part of the lunches or dinners; excursions and admissions to museums etc. included.

Contact and registration: Cees Hillebrand [www.albanian-folklore.com](http://www.albanian-folklore.com)

email : [Cees@albanian-folklore.com](mailto:Cees@albanian-folklore.com) Phone: ++31 621130672



## **Festival Internacional de Música de Cantonigròs**

July 14th to 17th

for more information,

[www.fimc.es](http://www.fimc.es)

The Festival takes part in Cantonigròs and Vic (Catalonia - Spain), in Osona, 100 km from Barcelona and French border.

Competition and exhibition of mixed choral music, both female voices, children's choir and popular dances. Groups from throughout the world to take part on the 5 different competitions which make the Festival, and daily, a choice of groups take part in the Concert to be held at the end of the day, the "evening concert".

**Itela**

A Fairly Fast

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Janet asked about a dance called **Itela**. I will be curious to know how others responded, and I wonder whether this name represents the Romanian dance **It,ele**. (Yes, that is a comma, sometimes called a cedilla, properly positioned directly under the t.) (presumably - **Ițele** - Ed.)

Eugenia Popescu-Judetz presented a version of It,ele to American folkdancers in about 1971, and Mihai David presented a somewhat different dance in about 1977. Nice dances, but not their most popular.

Anyone desiring copies of the descriptions may write to me at [sofdh@ymail.com](mailto:sofdh@ymail.com).

**Ron Houston, Trustee**  
Society of Folk Dance Historians



Next month - **Ciuleandra**, also from Romania - over to you. **Ed.**



## SIFD Committee

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- Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane,  
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- Secretary: Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park,  
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*naomiryder@hotmail.co.uk* 07920 424575



## WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- S.I **Saturday 5th EASTERN EUROPEAN & ISRAELI DANCE** workshop led by Corry Verheijen at St Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton Manchester M21 0XJ. 11am - 5pm. followed by a 'bring and share' supper and evening social dance. SIFD Members £10 Guests £12. Further details: Mary 0161 881 0955 or maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk.
- Saturday 5th KEVIN & ELLEN MITCHELL** Irish & Scottish songs, 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs: new venues, tel: 020 7281 7700
- S.I **Sunday 6th SIFD DANCE** led by SIFD Band
- S.I **Saturday 19th DANCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD** with Philip & Brenda Steventon at Nutbrook IFDG. Grangewood Methodist Church, Wollaton, Nottingham, NG8 2SJ. 10.30am-4.30. £10, half day £6. 0115 917 1831, gill.morrall@ntlworld.com, www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk.
- S.I **Saturday 12th BALKANPLUS** - see page 5



*All material for the April issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17th March.*