

70th Anniversary of the Society for International Folk Dancing

April 2016



SIFD News

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

On the front cover is a photograph taken at Porchester Hall in 1986 at the SIFD 40th Anniversary Dance; another from the SIFD 50th Anniversary Dance is on the back page.

‘Past Pages’ by Roy Clarke continues on page 6.

Ed.



SIFD website and Facebook

Items in the News reach members, and members of groups.

Information about your event can reach even more people if it's on the website and Facebook. We work on the assumption that any event listed in the News should be added to the SIFD website.

It's easiest for us to keep the website up to date if you send information in an email to mail@sifd.org (preferably in a format where cut and paste is easy, that way there are no typing errors). The easiest way would be to "cc" mail@sifd.org when you send your information to Janet. If you don't have email, please post it to Jeanette – see committee list for the address. Space is less restricted than in the News, so we can include extra information – a postcode and a contact phone number, email or website is useful.

Otherwise your listing will appear as it is in the SIFD News, (give or take a few typing mistakes).

We rely on you to check the listings! The events are entered in a different format from the way they appear and mistakes are easy to make.

I'm pleased to see that a few more people are adding information on Facebook for themselves - then all we need to do to spread the word is to "share", or to "invite" friends to an event.

Jeanette Hull



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Apr.29-May 2 (3) SIFD MAY DAY WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor
Apr.29-May 2 EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK FESTIVAL see p.14
- S.I **May 14 BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be the Ipswich Group see p.14
- S.I **May 20 WORKSHOP WITH FIONA HOWARTH**, Israeli & Balkan 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).
- 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 01629 57065
- S.I **Sep. 10 RAINMAKERS 40th ANNIVERSARY DANCE**, 7.45pm-11pm at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3TG. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).
- S.I **Sep. 24 SIFD 2016 AGM** will be in Nottingham.
- S.I **Aug. 26-29 WILLINGDON IFDG MINI FESTIVAL** of International and English Folk Dance, Circle Dance and singing at Plumpton College, nr Lewes, East Sussex. £160 full board. Contact Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ; 01323 503991 or rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- 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
- S.I **Oct. 22-23 DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House
- S.I **Oct. 30 ANNE LEACH - THE GRAND TOUR** at Pulborough Village Hall, West Sussex. RH20 2BP. £7 10:30am -3:30pm. DIY Tea & Coffee available all day. Janet Douglas 01243 265010

S.I **Nov. 4-6 TURGAY ONATLI** teaches dances from Turkey in Calver, Derbyshire. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. Website www.balkanfolkdance.org.



*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.*



All material for the May issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by the 17th April.



MacLennan Scottish Group

35th International Folk Dance Festival

Saturday 28th May 2015

8pm-11pm

Folk Dance and Ceilidh

Adults £7.50; Concessions £6; Child £3

Sunday 29th May 2015

2pm-5.30pm

Folk Dance Concert

Adults £7.50; Concessions £6; Child £3

NB There are discounts for both events and for families.

Both events are at The Priory School, Tintagel Road, Orpington, BR5 4LG

For further details please visit our website: www.msg.org.uk or email: enquiries@msg.org.uk



Past Pages continued...

Weekends Away

A successful weekend at Kemsing Youth Hostel in February 1947 led to the Committee booking Holmbury St. Mary hostel for the Spring Bank Holiday.

So what of the Y.H.A., then still in its youth having been founded in 1931. Its ethic was for members to arrive “under their own steam” as it was put; i.e. on foot or by cycle, hence Y.H.A. members were active people. Accommodation was basic; iron bunk beds with a flimsy mattress and three blankets, provide your own or hire a sheet sleeping bag. Help to run the hostel (duties), little or no heating, be in by 10pm, do not arrive before 4pm and be out by 10am. Food was still rationed, but some hostels provided meals, or cook your own. Think then of the Warden of Kemsing with people arriving by car (petrol rationing restarted in 1946), motor cycle or taxi plus suitcases. The girls in colourful dirndl skirts, white stockings and with flowers in their hair. No wonder the Warden at Holmbury St. Mary in saying they could not come come again, said they were nice people but not youth hostellers after his experience! Dancing was the thing, so they did, at every opportunity everywhere they went. Kemsing was tolerant and became a regular venue, even the villagers joined in at the Village Hall. Later Crockham Hill, with a character Warden became popular; members helped lay out the lawn for dancing.

Other hostels were used by small groups. It was these weekends that began to spread dancing, through contact with other hostellers and their joining in by invitation, and then subsequently starting at local groups.

Another venue with a room for dancing, the Hillside Guest House at Farncombe near Godalming was found. That first weekend there was attended by about thirty five people. The cost was thirty shillings i.e. £1.50 all inclusive Friday p.m. to Sunday p.m. It was popular but it was also with other organisations so availability was limited. This led to another venue, Surrey Crest near Godstone being found, which became a regular and memorable venue for many members.

Houses like Thamesfield (Henley), Bisham Abbey (Marlow) and Uplands (High Wycombe), all regularly visited also helped provide social cohesion, and with tuition broader experience of dance. The music at weekends being either live or recorded. A pattern that has continued in various forms at many venues, giving much pleasure through to today. The experience of organising weekends surely gave Jack Richardson the idea of Summer School on moving to Swansea; having University facilities at a seaside and holiday town; another facet of S.I.F.D. history.

Roy Clarke

Next month, Balkan beginnings.



Dear Janet,

Re. the July and September 1946 dates (Charles Collingwood's letter, March News). My guess is that the birth of the Society, took it as being the first action of a 'body in being', i.e. as with the issue of a Birth Certificate. Hence the private meeting in July can be regarded as conception!

I did not check the day of the week for September 5th, my apologies.

Roy Clarke



I must join Charles Collingwood in expressing interest in the reminiscences about the early days of SIFD. I believe I joined in 1955 at Inns of Court.

I was particularly interested to see Charles' name. I was trying to remember which year he visited us in Canada? An email would be nice Charles. I would also like news of Aily Eistrat? Her son lives close to us I believe. Keep the News coming!

Dorothy Sloan

djsloan@rogers.com

an article to complement Roy Clarke's article 'Weekends Away' (see page 6)

Weekends and Courses in 2017 and beyond

This year there are two "SIFD" general dancing and social weekends: one at Halsway Manor in early May, (contact grdnadie@aol.com and Robin Morris for information), and one in December at Dunford run by Dot Bradbury. And there are of course many other weekend folk dance events run independently. An incomplete list includes: Scandimoot, Tideswell, Skint, Willingdon mini festival, the West Midlands weekend, Cathy Meunier's residential courses in a lovely hotel in Torquay and in Derbyshire, Great Alne weekend, the courses run under the Holiday Fellowship auspices plus events that mix International and English dances.

The style and level of luxury of accommodation offered at the weekends varies from indoor (and outdoor) camping, with DIY catering, to hotels with stars and superb food. Some weekends offer just dance, some have music teaching too, some arrange extra activities. They use village halls, hostels and hotels, colleges - anywhere with a big-enough dance floor. Some bring in teachers from overseas, others use UK teachers, and at least two run by having informal teaching by whoever happens to be there as a participant. There are also of course non-residential weekend courses all over the country.

There is a wide range and variety, but what all these ventures have in common is a strong network of dancers, and willing volunteer organisers who give a lot of time and risk their own money.

Dance Weekends like these are so important - they bring us together, to talk and share as well as to dance.

There was for many years a full annual programme of "SIFD" weekends, which were actually largely independent of the Society but run under our name, organised by Roy Clarke and Jack Richardson. We recognise their hard work and more recently that undertaken by Gordon Adie and Robin Morris at Halsway Manor, and by Dot

Bradbury at Dunford, to ensure that these 2 remaining weekends continue.

There is unlikely to be a full scale SIFD Summer School in 2017, but perhaps something else could be arranged in late July/early August in its place?

We have one volunteer, but he cannot do it all on his own. And we know that the current organiser of the late December Dunford weekend wishes to hand over to someone else soon. So the Society needs people to come forward and help.

Back in 2012 it was announced in the News that the Committee would like the long-standing tradition of SIFD Weekends to continue. As well as continuing the Halsway Manor and Dunford Weekends we would like more.

As announced, the new weekends would be backed financially by the SIFD's Frank Flanagan Fund, and guidelines have been drawn up setting out what is involved. Guidance and advice would be available as required, and the weekends should be a happy mix of dance instruction, social dancing and time for walking/sightseeing/relaxing.

SIFD weekends as always are open to everyone whether SIFD members or not. Attending a good weekend will encourage non-members to join. All we need is volunteers (or teams of 2 or more, possibly from some of our groups).

We hope very much that some new organisers will come forward. We would be very pleased to hear from anyone who is, or who thinks they might at some point be, interested.

Judith Payling
for the Committee



SIFD Day Courses

2nd April at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London
10am to about 5pm

Dalila Heath and **Anne Leach** will present a programme of dances from Turkey (mainly from Turgay Onatli) and Denmark. Come to the whole day to experience two very different ways of dancing, or check our website for an approximate timetable. "I have done some of the dances they will teach and am looking forward to perfecting them"

(contact mail@sifd.org if you have any questions)

5th June 2pm to about 6pm at Cecil Sharp House

Leslie Haddon will teach a selection of dances he has learnt in the Czech Republic, he says "they are not too exhausting". The course is open to all.

8th October

Georgian dance with **Baykal Dogan** - more information later!

Jeanette Hull



A Reminder

This part of the newsletter and the page opposite are the result of my having extra space to fill. I am not complaining because as you know this issue is full of plenty of interesting material, but I have to work in multiples of four pages.

There are still groups in the Society who have never sent in 'their story'; what they dance, how they got started, if they demonstrate International Folk Dances anywhere, if they have costumes etc. It would be nice to hear from you.

Also we would love to read any 'folklore tales' - so if you have a spare moment - jot them down and send them in!

Ed.

pictures on the ‘weekends away’ theme.....



Mitko another ‘weekend’ teacher.



*Corry at Eastbourne in 2005
(see page 14)*

Dimitri Feary

It was with great sadness that I learned of Dimitri's recent death in Oxford. I would like to pay tribute to his role in bringing the richness of Balkan dance, music and folklore to many generations, and to maintaining a close, very knowledgeable relationship with the former Yugoslavia. I first met Dimitri when I went to Oxford as a student of fine art in the 1960s. Having been a member of the University of Sussex's international folk dance group, I wanted to maintain my interest in Balkan dance having been lucky enough to encounter some specialists in this field at Sussex. I was given the contact details of Balkansko Oro, a dance group originally formed by Serbian refugees from the Second World War, some of whom remained in the group and who were also later represented by their children. Over time others joined, many from the University but also from the town. Dimitri was the leader of the group and worked in the Bodlien Library which we joked made him into a mole as he spent much of his time in the underground stores of this massive library.

On my first visit to Balkansko Oro, I felt quite overwhelmed at the brilliance of the dancers, the music and the atmosphere of intense involvement in the dance. I was welcomed but told to 'go behind the line and copy' which was the only form of teaching that ever happened in those days – actually a traditional way of learning the dances. When I had mastered a few steps, with considerable difficulty, I was allowed to join on the end of the line. Dimitri was an outstanding dancer, a real natural and that had a major impact on the group as a whole. As a member of the Serbian Orthodox Church, he maintained a strong commitment to the faith and to its many celebrations, notably Easter. Indeed the whole group celebrated festivals and name days, and were famous for their Christmas parties, usually held around Orthodox Christmas day in January. We would paint large murals often based on traditional carpet design, always very bright and making a wonderful backdrop to the music, dance, singing and of course, food.... the last being prepared by members of the group including Dimitri. I was inspired to visit Yugoslavia during my second year at Oxford, hitch-hiking with an American friend from art school.

As two girls embarking on what now seems an amazing but somewhat risky venture, I decided to learn as much Serbo-Croat as possible before the trip. Regular Saturday evening visits to Dimitri resulted in my acquiring some essential phrases like ‘Do you have a bed for the night...’ and ‘Is there a bathroom?’ We managed two months in the Balkans and by then had acquired a lot more language and my first traditional costume from the village of Vevchani near Ohrid. It was through Dimitri that I met my late husband Danny Lumley, who came to Balkansko Oro from time to time to teach Bulgarian dance. Along with Ken Ward, who also sadly died a few years back, these three brought incredible talent and inspiration to Balkan dance, something that I am personally very grateful for as it gave me a lifelong interest, indeed a passion for the traditional arts of the regions of Serbia, Macedonia and Bulgaria in particular. Thank you Dimitri for your insistence on high standards, for your depth of knowledge and your willingness to share your expertise so readily.

Professor Diane Waller OBE

Emeritus Professor of Art Psychotherapy,
Goldsmiths, University of London.

Author of Textiles from the Balkans (2010) British Museum Press.



SIFD Monthly Dance

SIFD Monthly Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre Sunday 3rd April 7pm. £8.

Anne Leach will be leading the April dance. Our new venue is a short distance from Cecil Sharp House and parking is available on local roads.

Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place
off Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN

There is no dance in May because of the Eastbourne Festival. The dance on 5th June will be led by Jeanette Hull .

Anne Maddocks

Eastbourne International Folk Festival

29th April - 2nd May 2016

This year's line-up for the International side of the Festival features Eddy Tijssen teaching his usual selection of Bulgarian Dances. Eddy is supported this year by Corry Verheijen and Esther Willems, also from The Netherlands, who will be presenting a wide selection of dances from around the world. Just for fun, Eddy will also be presenting an introductory session of Zumba dancing.

In addition to the usual Welcome Dance on Friday evening and the Balkan Dance on Sunday evening, the Saturday evening will start with a French Bal to complete the French workshop theme from the afternoon. The second half of the evening will return to the usual mixture of general International dances.

On Sunday afternoon, we will be treated to a Meet-the-Team session with the Alonim dance team from the Israeli Dance Institute. There will, of course, also be a wide selection of English, Irish and American events on offer over the weekend.

There is still room on our steward team for more volunteers and this can be arranged to fit your dance preferences. Please contact Maureen (see below) if you are able to help.

You can reserve tickets on-line at the "Tickets" section of the Festival website: eiff.org.uk. Alternatively, call Maureen at the Festival box office on 01823 401271.

Ron & Jean Wilks



Balkanplus

The April Balkanplus will be held on the 9th April at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be Fiona Howarth and Ursula Brown. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton



Dear Janet,

- * It was a pleasant surprise to see a photo of The Rainmakers on the back page of the News last month. The photo was taken at the Victoria Embankment Gardens in (I think) July, 1992. We are wearing our Israeli costumes for the 4th spot, having performed Dutch in Volendam costumes for the first spot, and mixed costumes for spots 2 and 3. Dave Gardner (Eastbourne Festival Director at that time) sang folk songs and played his guitar in between our spots, allowing us time to change. We were representing the SIFD so I hope the audience was impressed.

The reason I can tell you all this is because we have scrapbooks that were kept by Betty Lee that started in 1976 when the club was founded, until the present day. We recently got the first books down from the loft, mainly to check our starting date, September 10th, because we are holding our 40th Anniversary Dance on this very date, this coming September. We do hope that some of you will be able to come to help us celebrate our continuing joy of dancing. (See Dates For Your Diary page...)

Jill Bransby

- * another surprise above: Rainmakers dancing Vava Vadmal. **Ed.**

Dear Janet.

It is not often that I feel moved to contact the News, but reading that you intend to publish **ciuleandra** next month I felt that I must register the original version which is seldom danced now. The version usually performed now originated in the USA and I think Brian is going to write to you about that. The version I know was taught to us in 1976 in Romania by a dance group in Calimanest in Oaş judetul, and I believe was also introduced even earlier by Alan McLean. The music used for the USA version is performed by Maria Tănase. The original has no slow section.

Ciuleandra.

Romania, Oaş.

The dance is performed in several small circles of about 8 dancers, joined with a shoulder hold. The steps are very simple.

Part 1. Chorus. step close step, to right then left alternately.(4 times each way)

Part 2. with small running steps the dancers cause the circle to gyrate clockwise, each dancer faces in one direction throughout. It should be possible to make 4 gyrations during the figure.

Part 3. Chorus

Part 4. steps as part 2 but while gyrating, circles circulate clockwise around an adjacent circle.

Again dancers face the same way throughout ideally 2 circuits should be made with the same circle.

Part 5. Chorus

Part 6. running as before the circles gyrate clockwise around the room, aiming to complete a full circuit.

This is a fairly riotous dance but as I believe it is supposed to represent tumbleweed this seems quite appropriate.

Janet Woolbar



Ciuleandra

The dance that Janet describes is almost certainly nearer to its origins. I remember it being taught at Barnet by Alan McLean and that we, in our youthful exuberance, created more mayhem than dodgem cars with the gyrating circles.

The later version affectionately known as “Julie Andrews” was first taught in 1972 by Mihai David in the USA. The dance’s popularity can be largely attributed to the music which is a famous 1956 recording by the great diva Maria Tănase who was Romania’s equivalent of Édith Piaf or Amália Rodrigues. Her presence can particularly be felt in the slow build up. Maria Tănase died in 1963 but she is still revered as a national treasure. The Dunav group religiously follows the template of the original recording when we play for dancing, thus playing once through for the introduction, seven times through for the first sequence of steps and five times through for the fast finishing step pattern.

A full description of the dance can be found on Dick Oakes’ website <http://www.phantomranch.net/folkdanc/folknote.htm>

Brian Dowsett



Recently, for some reason the tune of this dance was stuck in my head. I could only remember bits of it and had to hum it over the phone to a friend to identify it and fill in the blanks of my memory; so publishing it seemed a good idea.

How did I let it slip for so long? We are now dancing it nearly every week, that is, the ‘American’ version. The ‘original’ (see page 16) seems to be tremendous fun but obviously needs a roomful of people; I shall try it the first chance I get.

Janet Douglas



Ciuleandra

Romania

Musical notation for the dance Ciuleandra, featuring two staves of music. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one flat (B-flat), and a 5/4 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes. The second staff continues the melody, ending with a double bar line. Chord markings include Am, C, E7, and Am.

Play 13 times - first 3 being quite slow then build up speed gradually to a fast finish
My thanks to Caroline Thomas for the original music.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Ciuleandra

The March 2016 SIFD News asked about a dance called “Ciuleandra”. A discussion and description of various versions appeared in the 2013 Folk Dance Problem Solver, a copy of which the SIFD has. I would be curious to know which versions are danced by your membership.

Anyone desiring a copy of that dance description may write to me directly at sofdh@ymail.com.

Ron Houston

Society of Folk Dance Historians



A mystery piece of Wilf’s music, **Grankskveras**, will be featured in the May issue.

Does anyone know where it comes from?

Has anyone danced it?

Ed.



SIFD Committee

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- Naomi Ryder 13 Maun House, 1 Dunn Street, Dalston, London E8 2DG
naomiryder@hotmail.co.uk 07920 424575

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

Saturday 2nd SIFD DAY COURSE see page 10

Sunday 3rd SIFD DANCE see page 13

Mon. 4th - Fri. 8th 4 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING + walking. Phil & Brenda Steventon. HF Holidays, Selworthy, Somerset TA24 8TJ. tel. 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

S.I **Saturday 9th BALKANPLUS** - see page 14

S.I **Sat. 9th - Sun. 10th BELCO STANEV** - Bulgarian, in Sheffield. : £45. Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email: cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. www.balkanfolkdance.org.

S.I **Sunday 10th. GREEK ISLAND DANCES** Dimitris Triandafyllidis at St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd. Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LB 10:30-16:30. £30. (0208 556 5741) or ron.cherry.allen@gmail.com

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

S.I **Friday 15th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP - VASIL GERLIMOV** £8. 8pm to 10.30pm at Ewen Hall, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com

S.I **Sat. 16th - Sun. 17th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WEEKEND** with Vasil Gerlimov at St. Margaret's Inst. Polstead Rd. Oxford, OX2 6TN. W/end: £45. Sat w/shop: £20:10:30-4:30. eve.£8: 7-10. Sun.: £20:10-4. sallylhumphrey@gmail.com or charlotte@haenlein.co.uk

S.I **Fri. 22nd - Mon. 25th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (near Alcester, Warwickshire) www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.

