

# Society for International Folk Dancing



Visit us at [www.sifd.org](http://www.sifd.org) or find us on facebook

Registered Charity Number 284509

Contact the SIFD at [mail@sifd.org](mailto:mail@sifd.org)

Follow us on Twitter @sifdorg

## SIFD News

# May 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.

Anna Huston designed the front cover for the year 2000 celebrations - used again this month (with a few changes) to celebrate this year.

§

Here is a letter from Fiona Howarth that may be worth thinking about:

Dear Janet

In my copy of the Radio Times, referring to a programme called “How to stay young”, are the words “..they find that dancing is scientifically proven to be a more effective form of exercise than going to the gym” could this be our next advertising slogan?

yours, Fiona.

§§

Roy Clarke continues ‘Past Pages’ on page 8 with Balkan Beginnings, with an Appendix written by Philip Thornton in 1949.

**Ed.**



## **Day Courses in London**

I'd like to thank the first four day course teachers of 2016 for their work - each one did not only make a good choice of dances, and teach at a pace we could all enjoy, but added to the information given by the summer school and weekend teachers by doing extra research of their own.

### **The next two courses :**

5th June Czech with Leslie Haddon - afternoon from 2pm at Cecil Sharp House, followed by a Sunday dance at Primrose Hill.

8th October Georgian with Baykal Dogan - all day – from 10am, at Cecil Sharp House.

**Jeanette Hull**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jun. 5 SIFD AFTERNOON COURSE** 2pm to about 6pm at Cecil Sharp House. Leslie Haddon - dances from the Czech Republic
- S.I **Jun. 5 SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 11
- S.I **Jun. 11 THE DOINA EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP** has its Embankment performance at 3-5pm, joined by a Hungarian children's group on stage at the Victoria Embankment Gardens.
- S.I **Jun. 11 BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be the Barnet Group
- 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 **Jul. 3 BALATON EMBANKMENT PERFORMANCE** is at 4.30-6.30pm. at the Victoria Embankment Gardens.
- 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.
- 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. 8 SIFD DAY COURSE** Georgian dance with Baykal Dogan
- Oct. 22-23 DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House
- S.I **Oct. 22 ARMENIAN WITH SHAKEH MAJOR-TCHILINGIRIAN** Dance Day hosted by Jelenka Balkan Dance group. 11am - 4.30pm at Hempton Memorial Hall, near Fakenham, North Norfolk NR21 7LG. £15. bookings and further details from Dawn 01328 856582 dawnwakefield7@gmail.com

S.I **Oct. 30 ANNE LEACH - THE GRAND TOUR** dance workshop at Pulborough Village Hall, W.Sussex. RH20 2BP. £7 10:30am -3:30pm. Bring a picnic lunch. 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.

S.I **Nov.12-13 SERBIAN DANCE WORKSHOPS** with Sasha Smrekcic (accordion) and Vladica Tanasijevic. Tel. 01992 58271 see page 8

**Nov. 26-27 DANCES OF THE SILK ROUTE** (Dances from Iran, Daghestani, Uzbekistan, and Afganistan) with Helene Eriksen (from USA) in Mapperley, Nottinghamshire. Cost £60 if booked before 1st Sept. (£75) after. Contact Chrisandra@tesco.net or 0115 9554962 for details.



*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.*



## **Folk Dancer Online (FDO)**

(magazine of the Ontario Folk Dance Association).

Issue Volume 47 Number 2, April 2016.

This magazine may be freely viewed on the OFDA website:

<http://ofda.ca/wp/magazine/>



## **Dances of the Silk Route**

Dances from Daghestani, Uzbekistan, Iran and Afghanistan  
with Helene Eriksen (USA)

Sat. 26th Nov. 11.00 – 5.00 and Sun. 27th Nov. 10.00 – 2.00

At Chrisandra's Secret Studio, Notts



Come and join us for this truly unique experience to learn little known or studied but fascinating dances from middle Asia.

Helene is a teacher and choreographer of traditional dances and she also lectures and publishes on dance ethnology and costume studies. For many years she has been leading dance and cultural study tours including trips to Uzbekistan.



She teaches internationally but this is her first visit to the UK. Please bring 2 small saucers, 2 thimbles and 2 scarves (approx. 1m x 1m) for the workshop and a packed lunch each day. Drinks will be provided.

Early bird booking before 1st Sept. £60, bookings after this £75. Numbers limited so early booking is advised. To book send cheque for full amount payable to 'Kilikia Dances for Armenia' to Chrisandra, 16 Moore Road, Mapperley, Nottingham, NG3 6EF.

Limited accommodation may be available with local dancers, please ask if interested. Any queries contact [Chrisandra@tesco.net](mailto:Chrisandra@tesco.net) or Tel 0115 9554962.

**Chrisandra Harris**

## **Balkan Beginnings**

The March 1949 News gave the first mention of Balkan dancing in a note which said the programme for the Advanced Class was learning Swedish dancing at first hand, with the hope that later Philip Thornton would be able to teach some 'Kolos'. April's News reported that on March 18th Dr. Cyriax had taught two Swedish dances. Philip Thornton was a spectator and for the last twenty minutes Kolos were concentrated on; he would give a lesson on April 1st. The May News said his teaching was excellent, and enthusiasm was shown for this branch of dancing and the background discussion on the dances was appreciated. From this start Philip gave occasional classes. At the AGM in Oct. 49 he was elected to the Committee. Balkan classes were part of the autumn programme, with Mary Butterworth taking over whilst he had surgery, see his article as Appendix\*. (It has a reference to two years ago. i.e. 1947. There is no record of this).

So who was Philip Thornton and what influenced him? We know he travelled widely in the Balkans during inter-war years researching folk dance, music and customs; including making cine film, and he wrote two books. Clearly he was a talented ethnologist and ethnomusicologist, probably born before WW1.

He was influenced by Armenian music and ceremony in his early childhood, and later, following a suggestion went to Albania; a life changing experience. He brought a Romanian Calusari group to a 1930s EFDSS Festival, who made an 'impact'.

Hence bringing him into contact with Douglas Kennedy and thus post-war with the SIFD. His teaching was by watch and follow my feet. The first dances were few in number but names included: Zaplet, Romansko, Pajduska, Sto mije Milo, Tropanka, Elena Mome and Gankino. The classes gave birth to a demonstration group, with the first mention in the March 1952 News of a demonstration on January 27th at Cecil Sharp House using costumes from Philip's collection. April News reported that the Yugoslav team had gained second place at the Bethnal Green Festival of Arts on March 6th. His help to others including Ken Ward in particular especially with introductions to dance authorities in Yugoslavia. e.g. Zivko Firfov is well known, and



that he was out there during WWII. Clearly he was an interesting character with a life experience well worthy of a proper biography, and a legacy of Balkan dance to the SIFD.

**Roy Clarke**

Next: The Royal Albert Hall Shows and 'Envoi'.

\* **Appendix**

**Here We Go Round The Mulberry Bush**

When I was asked to call in one evening over two years ago and give a demonstration (I dare not call it a lesson) on the Kolo - lots of you were very bored and some were even annoyed. Now the Advanced Class can scarcely be restrained from doing them whenever I turn up. Why is this?

The circular-dance is the most ancient and primitive of all surviving dance forms. Ring-a-Roses, Nuts in May, Sellengers Round, the Eighthanded Reel, are all members of the same family as the Kolo or Hora or Choro (as it is known in Portugal). In the first dawn of tribal dancing, long before 'steps' were of any importance, mankind linked hands and shuffled round in a circle. Sometimes he formed up in a long snakey chain singing and stamping. I have seen this survival of circle-dance amongst the Pygmies in the Upper Congo areas. Two or three hundred tiny people who look as if they had stepped out of the trees and cracks in the rocks, holding hands and dancing rather sedately round a dead elephant. I have also seen in Macedonia, whole villages dancing in almost the exact movements of the 4th Century B.C. friezes. What makes them do it and why do we find it still has a magic pull in the austere and completely uninspiring atmosphere of an L.C.C. gymnasium?

I'll try to tell you - and I am very interested to know if you agree (if you have any ideas let's start a correspondence in the News Sheet).

When men and women dance in couples, they dance together as two isolated members of the community - even though there may be two hundred couples on the floor at once. Our 1949 existence here in industrialised England has practically destroyed the communal instinct.

*continued overleaf >*

Though they rub shoulders every day in the tubes and buses, the nine million Londoners know nothing about each other - but the eighty villagers in a Macedonian hamlet know everything about each other. They dance together as in a circle as one single man, not forty couples.

The instinct to 'get together' is still very strong in dancers even though our industrialised life has done everything to destroy it. In the group dance or circular dance our own personalities recede into the dance. We are for the moment swallowed up in it. Twenty legs and twenty arms all move together in perfect time, defeating the intricacies of the rhythm-pattern and the movement pattern. The magic 'pull' takes us over; our fatigue is absorbed into the dance, and we suddenly realise that it's terrific fun. The prosaic atmosphere of Carlyle School fades away and quite suddenly our tiny unit of red-faced and perspiring dancers has discovered the most ancient of secrets - unity of mind and body. It doesn't matter if we make mistakes, it doesn't matter if we are newcomers. Provided that the strength of the group is big enough it absorbs the new elements and they learn by the best and most ancient method - observation and imitation.

You need to find out for yourself a new sort of self-control before you can dance with any freedom. I have been astonished to see how the whole general standard of the dancing has improved, not merely of the circular dances, but of the complicated couples-dances you already know. But there is room for vast improvement yet.

I am grateful to you all for trying my experiment and as the weeks go by, I hope to write further notes that may be of interest to you; but we shall not meet I'm afraid for quite a time, as I have to undergo a rather nasty operation. Meanwhile, you have my records and I shall be thinking of you each week and hoping you won't forget all you have learned. I don't think you will - because you have discovered on your own initiative the magic of the Mulberry Bush.

**Philip Thornton**



## **SIFD Monthly Dance**

The SIFD Monthly Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre,  
29 Hopkinsons Place off Fitzroy Rd.  
London NW1 8TN

7pm - 10pm in June.

**There is no dance in May.**

The dance in June is on Sunday 5th June and will be led by Jeanette Hull.

**Anne Maddocks**



## **Sunday Dance in July: Advance Tickets**

It's the first July dance for many years, and we will only run it if we are sure we'll cover the costs.

There'll be a dance at Primrose Hill Community centre on Sunday 3rd July, if enough people want to come, and buy a ticket in advance.

As an incentive – the advance ticket is cheaper than usual, at £7, and when you buy your ticket we'll ask you to tell us three dances you would like to have in the programme.

If ticket sales are too low, the dance will be cancelled and your ticket will be valid for any Sunday dance in the Autumn.

Contact me (**Jeanette**) or **Helen Ezra** for a ticket.



## **Serbian Dance Workshops on 12th/13th November with Vladica Tanasijevic and Sasha Smrekic (accordion)**

Recognising that a weekend workshop devoted to Serbian dance is long overdue, Balkanplus has organised a first UK visit by this top grade duo. Vladica and Sasha have toured extensively in Europe and come with a reputation for fine dances, excellent presentation style and top quality music.

Present restrictions on hall hiring at Cecil Sharp House means that the weekend workshops and party take place in three separate venues but all will be familiar to regular SIFD dancers. The Saturday workshop will be in the Primrose Hill Community Centre and the evening party takes place in Trefusis at nearby Cecil Sharp House. We move to the Mazenod Community Centre for the Sunday workshop. Please note that the size of the Primrose Hill venue means that we must put a cap of 40 on those attending the Saturday workshop.

Vladica and Sasha will participate in the party on Saturday and I am having promising discussions with Nada Grkinic, director of Rastko – the superb dance group associated with St. Sava Serbian Church in London – about a cameo performance at the party. No early bird prices this time, but Balkanplus is pleased to give a ten pound reduction on the weekend package to SIFD members along with the discounts given to Balkanplus season ticket holders. Full details are given below. Because of the limited capacity of the Primrose Hill hall, I strongly urge you to book early to avoid disappointment.

The Workshops: 10.30am to 4.30pm on both days.

Saturday at Primrose Hill Community Centre,  
29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road) London NW1 8TN

Sunday at Mazenod Community Centre,  
Mazenod Avenue, Kilburn, London NW6 4LS

The Party: 7pm to 10.30pm in Trefusis  
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7AY

Prices: Saturday workshop £30 (25)

Sunday workshop £25 (20)

Saturday Party £10 ( - )      Weekend package £60\* (40)

Prices for Balkanplus Season Ticket holders in brackets

\* £50 for SIFD members

Tickets: Send cheque payable to Balkanplus and sae to Maureen Felton  
28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG

For more information, visit [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)

or contact me on [bvdowsett@aol.com](mailto:bvdowsett@aol.com) Tel. 01992 58271

**Brian Dowsett**



## The February and April Daycourses

The SIFD Daycourse held at Cecil Sharp House on April the 2nd, and as a one-off back to our old whole day format, was enjoyed by all who attended. (*below: Anne, left, and Dalila, right.*)



Dalila Heath commenced proceedings in the morning and presented a selection of Turkish dances, including four that had been taught by Turgay Onatli at Rivieradance.

Then in contrast in the afternoon Anne Leach revised some of the Danish dances from the 2015 Summer School. These included a reversing polka (specially requested).

Back in February, at the first “Daycourse” of 2016, Brenda and Phil Steventon revised some of the Summer School General Course dances. Again it was an enjoyable event, and the teachers covered eight dances from six countries (The Netherlands, Turkey, Albania, Israel, France and Kyrgyzstan) in a variety of styles and formats.

**Judith Payling**



Dear Janet,

Thank you for including 'another surprise' in last month's Newsletter. This was the photo of Rainmakers at our dress rehearsal practising Våva Vadmal - a Swedish Weaving dance. The costumes were kindly lent to us by the SIFD and the dance was performed at the Staplers Hitchin Gathering on March 5th, 1994. Here are two photos that were taken during the performance. Martin Butler, on accordion, led the music with 5 fiddlers making a very authentic Scandinavian sound. The dance was brilliantly performed (much to our relief after weeks of practising) and I remember a loud gasp from the captivated audience when Maria Kerr emerged from the tight cross formation towards the end of the dance. *(photo opposite)* The beautiful authentic costumes were much appreciated. I have a video of our performance and a video player that still works! We had so much energy in those days, each year we would perform a well rehearsed 6 minute slot at the Gathering and most years we would make a set of costumes. Now we just enjoy dancing old dances and learning new ones since, like most groups, we rarely have enough dancers to perform in public. The costumes come in handy for parties! Thank you Janet for taking us down memory lane.

**Jill Bransby**



## **Dance Tour to Armenia**

Armenia is a safe country to visit and not overrun by tourists.

September 17-29 €1555 (flight included), €1155 (land only)

Guest teacher Paylak Sarkisian has added many nice dances to our dance repertoire (including Caachkac Baleni). He will be joined by Liudvig Phogosian and Gagik Kinosian (ethnographic dance).

Classes will be held in the Sayat Nova Dance Academy. They are alternated with interesting excursions, because you ultimately do not get a chance to visit the Caucasus that often. There are many dance-related trips by private bus, and a guide will accompany us during excursions. We will visit a village of descendants of survivors of the genocide, who after 100 years, have kept their dances from Eastern Anatolia (Sassoun) alive and have always managed to fit in a performance of the famous Tatul Altunyan Ensemble.

Visit <http://www.tinekevangeel.nl> for more information and registration.

Mail: [info@tinekevangeel.nl](mailto:info@tinekevangeel.nl) or phone (+31)521 380382

Tour leaders: Tineke van Geel and Satik Avedisian

Unfortunately there are not enough registrations for the Culture Tour to Armenia from May 26– June 8. It has been cancelled.

**Tineke van Geel**

## **Tours & Dance Festivals in The Netherlands**

**Zomerfestival** (Summer Festival) from June 30th - July 3rd in Zevenhuizen (near Gouda)

Teachers: Albanian, Genci Kastrati - Bulgarian, Bianca de Jong with live music from Trediki - Macedonian, Wijnand Karel - Romanian, Dominike Karantzounis

Balkan singing workshops: Ivo Boswijk, Jan Knoppers

Dance on Saturday with live music of Wii Muzikanti and much, much more!

<http://www.dansevent.nl>

**Doedans Festival** from September 2nd- 4th in Vierhouten

Žana Balkanska - Macedonian dances; Sibylle Helmer - Albanian dances  
Selena Onatli - Roman dances from Turkey; Renske Burghout -Irish dances; Leo Waudman - Bulgarian dances; Jan Knoppers - Singing workshop; Stanislav Mitrovic - Music workshop; Michiel Ockeloen - Muziek workshop.

Performance groups

Phoenix Apeldoorn (NL-Netherlands); Folkloristische dansgroep Nipah (NL); Orkest Bobander (NL), Folklore Ensemble Gelmel (Belgium); Japanse Festivaldansgroep Raiden Yosakoi (NL)

Performing bands

Ogto Gadje - Roman music; Band Sultan - Balkan swing; Turquasi - international folk dance parties

Creative workshops

visit the website <http://www.doedans.nl>



### **Balkanplus**

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 14th May at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be the Ipswich Group. Admission £6.

**Maureen Felton**



## Support the SIFD.....

and buy a really useful

SIFD SHOPPING BAG

The price is £6.

The bags are 100% cotton, in navy blue cotton, with a design using our feet logo in two shades of blue and white.

They measure 37cm x 43cm, with long handles. They are hand washable.

You can buy by post (cheques payable to SIFD) from Judith Payling (see address in this News). To the bag cost add postage and packing as follows:

£1.20 for 1 bag

£1.20 for 2 bags

£2.40 for 3 or 4 bags

£2.85 for 5 or more bags, up to 10.



Or email Judith with your order (not forgetting to include your address) and send your total remittance electronically to the SIFD's account with CAF Bank, number 00016902, sort code 40-52-40. As a reference state BAG and your name.

**Judith Payling**



Dear Editor,

Ron Houston wanted to know which version of **Ciuleandra** was danced by SIFD groups. At Woodvale we dance what Janet calls the original dance - this is partly because we have a policy of retaining the 'old' dances, to make sure that they don't get lost in the mist of time. I believe that Woodvale are renowned for including dances which have been long forgotten by other groups.

Kind regards

**Jenny Cant**

## Granskveras

1  
5  
2  
8  
C G C

## "Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Janet Woolbar's notes from 1998 Summer School: (Lithuanian)

### Granskveras

- A couples side by side with low inside hand hold  
starting outside feet, with an accent on the first step  
4 runs forward, turn (towards partner) taking new inside hands run 4  
steps backwards  
Repeat in opposite direction  
Repeat both ways
- B step hop towards partner knocking inside shoulders together  
change places with 3 running steps.  
Repeat step hops and change back to own place.  
Woman passes in front of man in both directions  
Repeat B



- \* It looks as if Wilf added an extra k. Here are some YouTube links:  
**Granskveras** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-RyF10F5qs8>  
**Transkveras** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zI4vWyFHYJo>  
**Transferas** (funny) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-t1N9n-9xPU>  
**Granskveras** <http://www.vmm.lt/?cat=1>

Jeanette Hull



According to Sue Clark two Lithuanian girls at the York Summer School taught **Granskveras**.



\* According to my spell checker it should be Transversal.  
Next month - **Tsarina de la Abrud**, from Romania - over to you. **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



## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- S.I Apr. 29-**Mon. 2 (3) SIFD MAY DAY WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor  
 Fri. Apr. 29th - **Mon. 2nd EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK FESTIVAL**  
 01823 401271 or [www.eiff.org.uk](http://www.eiff.org.uk)
- S.I **Saturday 14th BALKANPLUS** see page 16
- S.I **Friday 20th ISRAELI & BALKAN WITH FIONA HOWARTH,**  
 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 June issue of the SIFD NEWS  
 must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 17<sup>th</sup> May.*