

70th Anniversary of the Society for International Folk Dancing



***August
2016***



***SIFD
News***



Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West
Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010
email: *SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk*

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

After Roy Clarke's series of 'Past Pages' articles; I felt I should try and look through the following decades of SIFD News and attempt to continue 'Past Pages' (see page 6).

Pictures from the 40th SIFD Anniversary Boat Trip and the 1987 Royal Albert Hall Show, 'Celebrating Age' appear on the cover.

The globe motif this month appeared on the 1963/4 programmes of the 'See How They Dance' Shows (re: Judith Payling's article last month).

On the back page is a photo of Turkish Roman dancers (see article last month).

The weekend of the 24th/25th September is the Southdowns Folk Festival where my groups dance; this means I will not get to the AGM and party. Could someone please take photos of our members - preferably dancing in costume in Nottingham - so that I can finish off this Anniversary year with 70th Anniversary photographs.

Ed.



Membership Renewal Forms

Enclosed with this issue are your renewal forms duly completed for your convenience. No need to return the form unless there are any changes. Membership card will be sent with next issue of News following payment. Hope to see some of you at the AGM.

Dalila Heath



Picnic in the Park

August 14th - Some of us from Merton Park and Cheam will be getting together in Nonsuch Park, near the house, to dance for approx. an hour and a half (weather permitting). A small café should be open until about 5pm. and toilets are also available. Come and join us, with your sandwiches, dance shoes, brolly / sun lotion. 3pm.til 4.30pm.

Helen Ezra

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Sep. 4: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** - Dot Bradbury and Anne Maddocks
Primrose Hill Community Centre 7pm -9.45pm
- 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.17: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Maggie O'Regan - please note
that this is the 3rd Saturday
- S.I **Sep. 24-25: INT. DANCE WEEKEND & SIFD AGM** St Leonards
Comm. Hall, Wollaton (Sat.) ..and New Stapleford Comm. Hall,
Washington Drive Stapleford (Sun.) with Mariette Van Gelder
£25 for 2 days - (until Aug. 1st). www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk or Gill
Morrall - tel 0115 9171831 or gill.morrall@ntlworld.com
- S.I **Sep. 28: OXFORD INT. F. D. G. - 40TH ANNIVERSARY PARTY**
8.00-10.30pm St. Giles Church Hall, Oxford. More details:
oxintdance.org.uk or from Colin 01865 862059
- S.I **Oct. 2: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** - Brenda & Philip Steventon
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
Oct. 8-9 INTENSIVE RUSSIAN DANCE WEEKEND with Hennie
Konings, contact Raymond or Judith 01392 438148 for further details
- S.I **Oct. 15: SIFD GEORGIAN DANCE DAY COURSE** with Baykal
Dogan. Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House. 9.30 to 4.00.
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. 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. 6: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** - Jill Bransby, Primrose Hill Community Centre 7pm -9.45pm
- 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.
- S.I **Dec. 4: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE**
- S.I **Feb.8-13: RIVIERADANCE! 2017** Res. folk dance holiday with Yves Moreau (Bulgarian and Balkan), Cristian Florescu and Sonia Dion (Romanian). Int. folk dances with France Bourque-Moreau, singing , music-making, drumming, walking and sight-seeing. 5 nights full board Torquay. £470 (full-days) or £400 (half-days) res. dance course; £310 for non-dancing friends & family. 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
- S.I **Feb.10-11: BALKAN INSTRUMENTAL DAY COURSE** with Maya Buckley. Fri. pm & Sat. 10am-5pm & 8:30pm-10:30pm. £30 (no charge for hotel residents on the Rivieradance! 2017 holiday). All instruments welcome. Resources for the course will be provided in advance. Pre-booking is essential. please contact Cathy Meunier (see above)



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

Demonstrating for the Building Fund

John Fisher, Ken Ward, George Sweetland and Ken Blackwood had stints as Editor in the sixties; the two 'Editorial Assistants', Stephen Ward and Lily Southgate both went on to become Editor (Lily for the next 37 years). It seemed customary for all of them to write a substantial editorial (I must try harder!).

More articles and letters were written about demonstrations and shows in the sixties than anything else. The Albert Hall Shows continued and were intended to raise money for the 'Building Fund' which was the other subject regularly in the News (it stood at £800 in 1964). Margery Latham became 'Demonstration Secretary' and wrote urging members to make money through demonstrations and other means to make 1965 'Building Fund Year'.

Margaret Colato with her Los Ibericos group performed Spanish dances throughout the sixties as did other specialist groups - Swedish, Polish, Balkan and Russian. These groups were viewed with apprehension by some who advocated 'general' for all and feared splits in the Society. But these specialists did join the established SIFD classes for the Albert Hall Shows. Shows were put on in the Commonwealth Institute, Town Halls, Festivals, competitions, colleges, venues around London and as far afield as Birmingham. It was (and still is) a very effective method of bringing International Folk Dancing to the attention of the public.

As demonstrations were happening continuously, not surprisingly some dancers tended to concentrate their efforts on one nationality. The costumes of other countries were collected and copied. The Society's collection started to grow, there was concern that costumes borrowed for shows were not being returned, but housing them was also a problem. There were descriptions of different national costumes and cover pictures for the News (many of which have been used again in this decade) illustrating costumes and embroidery designs. Members sent in helpful hints about embroidery, and tales of trips abroad to acquire costumes and fabric and other accessories.

Most classes and groups were still around London and its environs, there was an International Folk Dancing Festival in Folkestone and

mention of the Barlow group and another in Birmingham in 1967 (and Guildford, quite near London). Social Dances at Cecil Sharp House (proceeds to the SIFD Building Fund) continued but falling numbers were a worry and Specialisation was seen as one of the causes. Here is a letter from Elaine Chubb that dealt with it:

“Dear Editor,

Society Ritual

The argument about General Dancing v. Specialization seems to be settling down to a ritual, the equivalent of bemoaning the weather in ordinary conversation, and no doubt we should all feel lost without it.

Surely the best thing for the Society is for all members to look on the argument as background noise and just keep on doing the sort of dancing they want to do, whether it is general or specialized. I don't see why it should not be accepted by all members of the Society, as it is by many, that people may have other interests or family commitments which prevent them coming dancing more than once or twice a week, and that it is reasonable to expect them to come to the type that they most enjoy. It is pointless for the keen general dancers to hope that if they keep on long enough the erring specialists will creep penitently back to the fold; all that will happen is that the specialists will get pushed into more extreme attitudes in self defence, and will feel the victims of an Inquisition (anti-Spanish).

I suspect that in fact the Society will flourish best when all members can feel at home in it and can concentrate on enjoying the dancing, rather than being forced to take up sides in an argument which is becoming rather a bore to people who know what dancing they like best and what classes they intend to come to, despite vilification!

Finally, may I suggest that, to reduce this discussion to its proper place as a ritual which is rapidly losing its meaning, we should devise a Society dance, in which all members can join, and which could be used as a chorus dance at the Albert Hall or to set the mood at Surrey Crest-style weekends. Doubtless other members can think of appropriate figures for inclusion in this suggested sequences:

continued overleaf >

Idea for SIFD International Dance

Longways for as many as will; specialists and non-specialists form two separate lines facing each other - no partners, but dance with opposites in some figures.

Music: two separate bands playing independently behind each line.

Costumes: Various

Figure 1 Set to R, set to L, honour your opposites.

4 bars (This figure generally omitted).

Figure 2 As in Chapelotte - specialists advance, while general dancers retreat; bourree step. (Repeat). Repeat vice versa.

32 bars

Chorus Balance R, balance L, shout "Boo!", stamping R and L and snapping fingers or castanets.

4 bars

Figure 3 "Face in lines and advance to meet opposite line with 4 Dalstegs, passing hand horizontally across forehead with each Dalsteg (as if searching)". Acknowledge existence of other line, then "push one another away and run backwards to original position".

8 bars

Figure 4 Each line turns its back to other; non-specialists do any steps 16 bars on spot they choose; specialists do any Balkan or Spanish steps on spot, again according to choice.

16 bars

Figure 5 Advance to meet other line, steps according to fancy. On first 8 bars beat of 5th bar, tread on each other's toes; retreat with Hopak limping step or Paduška "threes" step.

8 bars

Figure 6 Balance on spot, making grimaces and yelling "Hoy!" and other suitable cries.

4 bars

Figure 7 Advance with chorus step of Estonian Sadala Polka, shaking fore-fingers (4 bars); quarrel figure (face-slapping); retreat with chorus step (4 bars).

16 bars

Figure 8 Selected solo dancers from each line meet to perform any or all of: Basque stick dance, Shiptar sword dance, Schuhplattler, etc., while chorus dancers join hands to form two separate rings round the soloists. Specialists do Kolos and Sardanas, non-specialists do anything but; circle endlessly, in opposite directions and never getting anywhere. Continue endlessly."

(while music lasts)

By the end of the sixties Shows and Social Dances only covered expenses and mention of the Building Fund eased off. The weekends away continued from the fifties, and the Swansea Summer School became very popular and much praised by members around the country; it satisfied the needs of those who wished to specialise in one country's dances and also the needs of those who just wished to dance international dances socially.

Before I leave the sixties I must share an excerpt from my favourite letter of the decade:

"I have always been taught that it is impossible to dance well unless one is dressed correctly, and our tutors always insisted that tights and ballet pumps be worn by their pupils. I would like to see it made a rule whereby at all classes, ballet tights and shoes must be worn. Complete freedom of movement would then be achieved and if some of the more simple bar work were introduced, this should improve your dancers' technique.

M. Doupeyes".

Not surprisingly there were letters in reply to this in the following issue.

Janet Douglas



Letters

Dear News team.

I always look forward to receiving my copy each month but the recent issues reflecting the history of S.I.F.D. have been exceptionally interesting and have brought back many memories. Thank you. I do hope the younger members have as much fun as we did in the old days. The photo of Peter Lilley sums it up pretty well. Keep up the good work.

Sue Clark
Pembrokeshire



Halsway Manor May Day Weekend

Once again long established friends from the West Country, Midlands and London and new friends converged on the Quantocks in Somerset for a long weekend of international folk dancing. This was mixed with walking, sightseeing, taking steam train rides. That was, in the carriages not on the footplate even though that would be appropriate for dancers! A visit was made to the grand National Trust Montecute House. Those quick off the mark joined a tour of the outside of the house which turned out the best way to understand this grand property. The adventurous and those fit and able enough went off with their ski sticks and rucksacks for a ramble. Lunch was provided by EFDSS's Halsway Manor kitchen. The Manor is an interesting building with old stables converted to accommodate dancers. Hay was available at little extra cost.

The annual croquet match took place with a record number of players, none of whom knew any rules. With a great deal of cheating; moving of hoops, poking balls through the wrong way and shouting to put players off. There was worse but won't be written about here but did add to the hilarity. All this was going on despite Robin being a referee as he was deeply interested in his newspaper rather than fair play!

In her inimitable style Janet W led the dancing and interspersed long lists of requests with new dances. These were drawn from the rich repertoire of international folk dance with seductive music which demands that you dance!

Stella provided most of the live music backed up by two fiddlers, Maggie Kaye and partner. David was the techy who made sure, like magic, recorded music went smoothly. Following their wedding a few weeks earlier, a collection was made by those at Halsway and presented to David and Stella as a wedding present and much appreciated by both. Those attending the weekend held a useful discussion about how to rearrange the weekend and include other items of interest. The objective is to attract other dancers to this highly enjoyable SIFD event and beautiful area. Suggestions made included inviting local EFDSS groups and schools to dance around the May Pole, a couple of talks on the history behind some dances, and dispense with the expensive National Trust coach visit. Walks will remain an integral part of the weekend.

Next year it is planned to bring the prices down so book the weekend in the diary – Friday 28 April through to either Monday 1 May which is May Day or extend your stay to Tuesday 2 May.
More news and details will be published in further issues of SIFD News by Robin who has taken over from Gordon.

John Boyd



Helene Eriksen in Uzbekistan dress; she is coming to Mapperley, Notts. in November

(see Diary Dates)

Dear Janet,

Firstly, I'd like to thank Roy Clark for his series of articles about the early years of the SIFD, it's been interesting. There was much that I did not know, having been a member for only 30 years. The energy level and dedication in the early years must have been very exciting.

Much has changed since the days of a society with large groups and classes, mostly based in London and with people attending classes, and performing in a wide variety of styles. I have seen a report written in the 1980s when the committee were worried because the numbers at London general international Sunday Dances had gone below 60.

Now less than a quarter of members and groups are within the London and Greater London postcode areas, and the number of groups has expanded: over 80 nationally, with less than 30 meeting in the London area. Even as late as the 1990s there were only about 30 groups, but twice as many individual members.

Fewer classes claim to be "General International", and of those, most show preferences towards just a few countries or styles, suited to the demographics of their members. Day and Weekend courses happen all over the country, organised by many volunteers and attracting people from everywhere.

Once there was a small repertoire, known by most members, now there are vast collections of music and dance notes and recordings and a common repertoire barely exists. Many members travel to courses and festivals to learn even more.

With a shrinking membership, there are fewer people available to do work, and we have a committee whose interests and locations do not truly reflect those of the membership. 7 of the 9 current committee members live in or near London, 4 love doing Scandinavian couple dance, one rarely dances at all, 3 are regular teachers or social dance leaders, 6 go to "general" events and 2 dance almost exclusively Balkan, 5 have not yet retired from paid work. Most of the committee work hard on all sorts of projects and routine admin and 3 are also involved in running other international folk dance events. The only way we can have a committee that reflects the membership, and has the time and energy to make changes, is for you to volunteer.

The society, and all the classes, depend on you to spread the word, to put a copy of the News where class members will see it and find out about other events, to leave cards and class lists wherever you go. It helps, too if you can pass information about teachers you meet to the committee, so we have a pool of good people to invite to teach.

Come to the 70th AGM. We need to have almost 10% of the membership there, and we chose Nottingham because it's a shorter distance for most people than London. We are very grateful to Nutbrook for volunteering to host it, and for organising the workshops and party. Next month there'll be information about the agenda.



Over the next few months I'd love to be reading about summer courses and festivals - Musik vid Siljan, Norrlandia, Gennetines, Llangollen, Greece, where else?

Jeanette Hull



Ambee Dageets

"Armenian Turn"

Armenia

6
10
14

G Cm G
Cm G
Fm G
Fm G

Taken from tape W.H. Jun '90

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Ambee Dageets was one of the four dances we performed at the last Royal Albert Hall Show (and it seems that that was **the last** Albert Hall Show). It was choreographed by Tom Bozigian.

More Memories of Peter Lilley



Our memories of Peter, who sadly passed away last month, don't go back quite as far as those remembered by Lily in last month's News, but Jean and I first met him at Harrow Green IFDG in the early sixties.

We introduced him to Kay (Khorshed), whom he married in 1967. Sadly, Kay passed away prematurely in 1999.

We often went on holidays together, and watched their children, Jonathan and Andrea, grow up.

After we founded Woodvale IFDG in 1968, Peter and Kay came to most of our events; the accompanying photo shows Peter and I doing Oxdans together in 1970.

Many of us oldies will miss him greatly. RIP Peter!

Jean and Ian Willson

Loidis IFDG

Next month the music for **Fflaniglen** - Wales - if someone could tell us how to pronounce it - that would be a start! **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.com

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 AUGUST



Fri.12th - Sat.20th BILLINGHAM INT.FOLKLORE FESTIVAL
01642 553220 info@billinghamfestival.co.uk

Sunday 14th PICNIC IN THE PARK see page 3

S.I Fri. 26th - Mon.29th 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



*All material for the September issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the
Editor in writing by the 17th August.*