

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



News

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November 2016

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

I have just returned from the Bakal Dogan Georgian workshop - we danced exactly as told last month “*on the balls of their feet... bodies absolutely ramrod-straight.*” Bakal is delightful - a very satisfying day .

Fiona sent the souvenir programme from the Silver Jubilee Reunion Dance - from which an old SIFD logo is reproduced on the front cover; also on the front cover - a picture of the cake from the party at Nutbrook see page 9 for more about that.

Ed.



List of SIFD Groups and Classes

The process of asking all current SIFD groups and classes whether they wish to renew their association or affiliation with the Society, and then collating their replies and updating all the relevant lists and leaflets, can be quite lengthy. But I am pleased to report that all is now complete, and the finalised list with updated details should be accompanying this copy of the SIFD News (or one very soon for those who receive the News by post.) This is a detailed list, only circulated within the Society. The leaflets have fewer details as space is so tight – not even room for the name of each group. They do, however, have contact details for each group, and information on how to find out more. If you would like some leaflets to hand out, please get in touch with either me or Jeanette.

I would like to thank all group leaders who have rejoined (especially those who replied promptly!) and for supplying me with any changes to their details. I'm glad to say that we have lost only one group this year (Bungay International Folk Dance Group, sadly) but have gained four during the year. I'd like to welcome **Dronfield & District U3A Traditional International Dance Group**, in Derbyshire, **Lancaster Eurodance**, in Lancaster, obviously, **Opanka** in South Manchester and **Withernsea Folk Dancing** in the East Riding of Yorkshire. If you're nearby, do support them.

Please could you check your entries, where applicable, and let me know if you notice any errors. Apologies in advance... Too late I'm afraid to correct the leaflets, but the detailed list can be updated straight away, and of course the website.

Alison Scrimshaw 020 8395 1400 alison.scrimshaw@gmail.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Dec. 4: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** - see page 14
- S.I **Dec. 10: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Zivko Firfov with Dunav
- S.I **Dec.29: TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall, nr Eastbourne BN24 5EH. 10.30 - 4.30. £8 (half day £5). Shared lunch, drinks provided. Bring own CDs or just dance. Rowena Martin 01323 503991. rowenahmartin@hotmail.com
- S.I **Jan. 8: NEW YEAR BALKAN DANCE PARTY** at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR from 11.30 to 16.30. Bring & share lunch. Cost £5. Book with Greg Boyd on gregboyd99@aol.com 07810181273 or Janet King on 0162957065 j.king194@btinternet.com
- S.I **Jan. 14: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Jill Bransby and Rainmakers
- 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)
- Apr. 8 DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE** a day of mainly Armenian dances at Calver Village Hall, Calver S32 3XR 10.30 - 16.30. Further details and to book contact Janet King (01629 57065) or email j.king194@btinternet.com. Cost for the day £12.

S.I Apr. 28 - May 1: SIFD WEEKEND at Halsway Manor, N.Somerset.
A weekend of Folk Dancing led by Janet Woolbar and Music led by Stella Wentworth. With guided walks and freedom to discover the local area. For Info. Contact Robin and Judy Morris – 01564773482 - 07966785172 or robinnimbo@aol.com

Apr. 28 - May 1: EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL see page 12



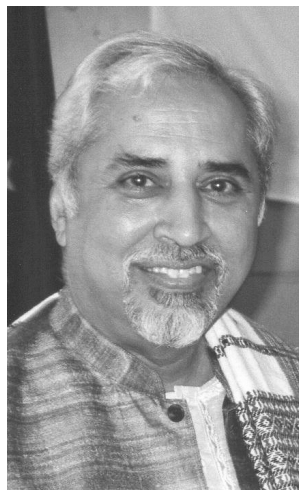
*Events covered by SIFD insurance are marked S.I.
Please remember that the onus is on **you** to mark each event when sending in the notice if your event is covered by our insurance.*

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



Narendra Kotiyan

Naren has been a well-known figure in the SIFD for many decades, playing his tarabouka drum and other instruments. He co-founded the Dunav Balkan Group in 1964, and sang in the London Bulgarian Choir. Sadly, Naren has developed Alzheimer dementia over the last couple of years, and deteriorated fast during the summer, being cared for by his landlady, Dunav's accordionist Caroline Thomas. Aged 84, he is now in a care home, very weak and immobile and seldom saying a word.



Contact carolinejthomas@yahoo.co.uk for more information.

Caroline Thomas

77 Forest Road London E17 6HF 020 8527 4896



Past Pages

The News in the Nineties

Mostly it seems members were too busy enjoying themselves dancing to concern themselves about the day to day running of the Society; still 'in London', the shortage of volunteers worsened to the extent of no chairman until Jeanette Hull stepped in (for the first time) and took on the job. SIFD Badges gradually fell out of use, partly because of the lack of volunteers to organise the courses, and, partly because many (out of town) members had a different repertoire, others just danced for fun and saw no point.

Wilf Horrocks was a regular contributor of sheet music throughout the decade; also Mike Gilbert furnished a lot of information about playing folk music. There was still a very long calendar of forthcoming events around Britain and abroad to pore over. Members wrote copiously about their holidays, sometimes with only a very tenuous connection to folklore. The monthly list of SIFD groups and classes disappeared (probably because of the cost), and so did much of the 'educational' content (which had been so much a feature of the eighties). However, one article that bucked the trend is reproduced below:

“Style Concepts

Ever since I began International Folk Dancing I have been fascinated by the differences in dances from different countries and by what constitutes the style of a particular region. How could I copy this style myself? More importantly, as a non-native teacher, how could I teach a dance style to other people?

When I was training students to go out into schools to teach Folk Dancing, both they and I had been trained in Modern Educational Dance following the principles of Rudolf Laban, so to convey differences in style, as well as trying to demonstrate them in my own dancing, I could draw on previous experiences of effort actions, differences in tension, of space, time and flow. Nowadays my work is with quite different groups of people. Many have had no previous dance experience at all, and this is the sort of clientele with which new aspiring teachers will probably have to deal.

At the Teaching Forum held earlier this year I hear that there were some

people wishing to come forward for training to become S.I.F.D. teachers. I want to pass on to them, and to anyone else who is interested in the learning process, some work which was done during our teacher training course with Jan Knoppers, the chief teacher trainer for the Dutch Folk Dance organisation. We were asked to take some region with which we were familiar and to "brain-storm" ourselves to bring into our minds the essential points of the style we wished to convey, plus and "helping words" ("Hulp-text") we could use during the teaching to help the class members to understand the effect they were trying to achieve. We also noted any other things which might influence the style, such as the type of shoe worn and the influence of costume.

I recently taught a few Serbian dances during a Day Course at Eastbourne, and there were also Serbian workshops at Eastbourne by the "Opanka" group from Manchester, so I am starting with some style concepts from that region. Remember that these are just my own mind-jottings to illustrate the process of accumulating style concepts for yourself. I have been very impressed by the work Michael Gilbert has done on finding the right style for playing folk music from different areas, and I think we should apply the same thought and care to our interpretation of the steps. Feel free to disagree with, or add to my ideas. This is not a thesis on Serbian style, but a model to show you what you might do as a teacher when you prepare your lesson. Without style, a dance is nothing.

Serbia

General Style Concepts (Note form)

Poised, upright, proud, ankle-knitting, dance from knee, upper body straight, still except when bouncing, up-down, bounce-bounce, shaking, vibrating, symmetry what done to R often rep. to L, very small steps, close to ground (flat shoe), control, kolo-line, leader led, basic + development, improvisation.

Regions

Central Serbia *Šumadija + Pomoroyje*

Above concepts apply. Dances like: Šetnja, Moravsko, Šumadinka, Tasino, Ruzmarin, Cent. Serbian Suite, Devojačko Kolo, Zikino.

continued overleaf >

East Serbia Niš, Pirot, Leskovac

Close to Bulgaria. Bulgarian rhythms. X-hand hold ("Lesa"), fast small steps, sways, quick changes direction, often asymmetric. Shouts. Dances like: Što mi Omilelo Nane, PošIa Rumena, Lile, Lile (Šop rhythm 9/8 ♪♪♪♪). Dajčavo, Čačak.

South Serbia Vranje

Turkish influence-music, dance, costume. Women baggy trousers, scarf, arm + hip movements. Tambourines (men + women). Dances like: Vranjanka, Duj-Duj (gypsy), soft feet.

North-East Serbia. Banat + Vojvodina

Banat. Close to Romania. Very small steps, virtuoso, acrobatic male contests, implements, bottles, daggers, sticks, much shaking, Ukrainian-type steps. Couples, turning, trios. Twisting, plaiting legs, tension.

Vojvodina. Close to Hungary + Romania. Mixed population, Serbs, Slovaks, Ruthenes from Ukraine), Hungarians, Romanians. Women's costumes silk, Hungarian-style. Men, boots, spurs, bells. Intricate twists in figures for trios. Men compete, women support. Dances like: Bunjevačko Momačko, Logovac. Tension, shaking.

I hope that some of the other teachers who did the course of training will offer to share with members some of the work that they did on "style concepts for other regions."

Marina Wolstenholme"

The Society had severe financial problems in the nineties; the main expense, the News, was expensive to produce and send out - discussion took place about possible savings with many letters on the subject. In the end no action was taken and all ended well (with a windfall) and we kept our monthly publication and left the 20th Century behind.

Lily retired as Editor in 2005, as I took over from her then I shall leave 'Past Pages' there. "News, Events, Articles and Information" (Judith Payling's words) is what you get from the 21st Century SIFD News (much the same as the 20th Century when everything's considered); and now with website, facebook and twitter as well as whatever new technology manifests itself we shall surely use it to preserve, practise and demonstrate folk dances from around the world.

Janet Douglas

International Dance weekend on 24th 25th September 2016

This event hosted by Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group celebrated the 70th anniversary of the S.I.F.D. and was the venue for the society's A.G.M. The halls were new to everyone and were light airy and suitable for the occasion. The dancing was superb. We had a great mix of dances from Armenia to the Netherlands, and included Israeli, Serbian and Croatian dances. The music was lyrical, lively and most enjoyable. The teaching by Mariette was superb. She was clear, precise and did not miss a trick (she did not even miss late comers creeping in the door). She was very welcoming and inclusive, full of energy and fun. The Saturday dance was full of action with lovely music from our band Heart of England. Many familiar dances were enjoyed and the range of dances was chosen to reflect the wide range of countries which dancers in the SIFD have met over the years.

Unfortunately the numbers were low but it was felt that those who did not attend missed a great weekend:

“Mariette taught us a good variety of dances pitched at the right ability level. The venues were good, the food was delicious!! I thoroughly enjoyed myself”

“A wonderful weekend”

“I really enjoyed the dancing with Mariette”

Gill Morral



Aulona Folk Festival, Vlorë, Albania

This May I headed to the sunny south-western port town of Vlora to attend the CIOFF Aulona Festival. Having lived in Gjirokastër for eight years, I was trying to find out when the next Gjirokastër National Folk Festival was going to take place and came across the Vlora festival via the CIOFF website. I noted that it attracts European folk dance groups, especially from Balkan countries, so thought it would be good to check the festival out with a view to taking other Balkan dancing enthusiasts to attend this three day event.

Vlora is a popular beach destination for many Albanians and is also important in Albanian modern history as the town where Ismail Qemali raised the Albanian flag in 1912, declaring independence of Albania from the Ottoman Turks. The festival usually takes place around the middle of May to coincide with the opening ceremony for the tourist season in this coastal city. Evening performances take place over three days and on the last day, a Saturday, the dance groups taking part in the festival process up the main boulevard, dancing as they do so, until they reach a square in front of the port.



It was wonderful to walk alongside the participating dance troupes. Groups from Bulgaria, Italy, Poland, Kosovo and Albania snaked their way around the square dancing Albanian dances as the town leaders declared that the tourist season had begun.

On the second day of the festival we all headed to a beach around the Bay of Vlora where groups enjoyed dancing their own dances. There was also time for swimming and sunbathing before eating at the beach restaurant Bojo.

left: Italian musician

Group leaders were treated to a fish lunch in the restaurant and though I was not a group leader, I was also included. I shared my room with a lady from a village in the Gjirokaster region who sings with other Albanians living in Greece in a polyphonic singing choir. In the evenings groups congregated for dinner and dance in one or other of the hotels hosting groups. On the final after the closing performances there was a festive evening at a local hotel. It was good to have the opportunity to connect with dancers from different countries and to dance with them.

Next year the festival runs from 11th-13th May and I would like to take a group to attend the festival and also to get to know more about Albanian history and culture. We could visit some of the local tourist attractions, such as the Independence Museum, the ethnographic museum, the 12th century Byzantine church of St. Mary in nearby Zvernec or the ancient city of Apollonia. I'm also hoping to take a morris dance group to perform, too. I propose flying to Corfu, crossing to Saranda by ferry and after an overnight stay in Saranda, we can journey along the stunning southern coast towards Vlorë, passing attractive villages clinging to the olive clad mountain slopes dropping down to the sea. After the festival we can return to Saranda via the attractive hill town of Gjirokaster with its stone houses and cobbled streets and in close to Saranda is the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the ancient city of Butrint. I would like to hear from anyone interested in joining me to experience this festival and get to know something of the hospitable land of Albania. Please email me at Albanian.nature@talktalk.net expressing your interest in this trip. I am currently working on getting a full cost for the trip.

Penny Munden

(member of Živko Firfov group)



Serbian Dance Workshops

with Vladica Tanasijevic & Sasha Smrekc

The waiting is over. We welcome these talented young men this month on their first visit to the UK. It will be a rare opportunity to learn Serbian dances from an internationally recognised expert accompanied by a top flight accordionist. Balkanplus hosts the big workshop weekend in London on 12th and 13th November and, at the time of writing, there are

still places available on both days. Ron and Jean Wilks will be filming the dances and producing a DVD in their customary impeccable fashion. Remember too that SIFD members pay just £50 for the weekend which includes two daytime workshops and a Balkanplus dance on Saturday evening at which we hope to be treated to a performance by the amazing London-based Serbian dance group "Rastko" after a clashing engagement in Paris now looks like falling through. Full details are given on the What's On page but please feel free to phone/email me on 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com

Vladica and Sasha will also be visiting Oxford Balkansko Oro on the evening of 10th November and Barnet on 11th November. Be sure not to miss them. Turn again to the What's On page for details.

Brian Dowsett



Eastbourne International Folk Festival

Friday 28th April - Monday 1st May 2017

"Early Bird" tickets at £85 (saving £15) available from the 1st Nov. until the 12th Jan. 2017, so book soon to obtain the special deal. Booking accommodation early will give you the lowest rates and widest choice. Marius and Maria Ursu will be presenting a programme of Romanian dances, including a session specifically devoted to couple dances. Esther Willems will be returning to the Festival to offer a mixture of Bulgarian and general international dances similar to her popular 2016 sessions.

Also on offer are sessions of Zwiefachers with Scott Higgs & Notorious, Danish with Reel of Three, Swedish with Bowjolie plus beginners sessions of western Squares with Jeremy Child and Jive with Bob Barrett.

For the adventurous, there will be Bollywood & Bhangra dance sessions to try as well as the usual range of American and English Country dance. We will be celebrating the century of Pat Shaw's birth with a costume ball.

The festival depends on having stewards available to ensure the smooth running and safety of the festival. If you are able to assist with this in return for a free or reduced-price ticket, please contact the Festival Director, Maureen, on 01823 401271. eiff.org.uk

Ron & Jean Wilks

AGM 2016, in Nottingham

Gill Morral and all of the Nutbrook group were excellent hosts for the AGM. They organised a very enjoyable weekend of workshops, a 70th anniversary cake, an excellent evening buffet, a costume display and a social dance with choices of dances that everyone could join in.

The full minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting, will be published later in 2017, this is a summary of the main points.

The motion that the membership structure be amended to remove the differential between London and Country membership was passed, along with the motion setting out the proposed new (simplified) rates. So from September 2017 individual membership will be £20 (or £13 if the SIFD News etc is received electronically). Family membership will be £24 (or £17 if the SIFD News etc is received electronically).

The meeting passed the motion that the SIFD should join the organisation One Dance UK. It is felt that as this organisation acts specifically for Dance in the UK membership will be useful and beneficial for the Society.

Jeanette Hull announced that the people working on the project to make archive material available to members had made a lot of progress during the year. A USB memory stick with over 4000 items on it will soon be available. Those attending the AGM were offered a chance to order in advance. When the last stage of work is done and sufficient copies have been made, we will advertise it in the News for all members.

At the 2015 AGM it was observed that the Society has a lot of Associated and Affiliated Groups, and that many of them have members who are not SIFD members. A small team has been formed to investigate the possibilities and implications of a change to our membership structure to create a form of membership that would reach all class/group members. There will be more information on this when the team have met and completed their first phase of work.

The following people were re-elected unopposed: Jeanette Hull, Judith Payling, Dalila Heath, Richard Mellish, Caspar Cronk, Mary O'Mahony, John Stewart and Holly Payling.

Jeanette Hull

Ball del Ram Melody

A Lightly (Intro: Last 2 Bars)

Catalan

Musical score for 'Ball del Ram Melody' in 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff starts at measure 9 with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Chords are indicated below the staff: F, Bb, C7, F, C7, F, C. The second staff starts at measure 17 with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Chords are: F, Bb, C7, F, C. A note above the first measure of the second staff says 'B a little more emphasis'. The third staff starts with a double bar line and repeat sign, then continues with chords: F, C, F, F7, Bb, C7, F. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat sign. The text '4 times' is written below the final measure.

Ball del Ram Harmony

A Lightly (Intro: Last 2 Bars)

Catalan

Musical score for 'Ball del Ram Harmony' in 3/4 time. The score consists of three staves. The first staff starts at measure 9 with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Chords are indicated below the staff: F, Bb, C7, F, C7, F, C. The second staff starts at measure 17 with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. Chords are: F, Bb, C7, F, C. A note above the first measure of the second staff says 'B a little more emphasis'. The third staff starts with a double bar line and repeat sign, then continues with chords: F, C, F, F7, Bb, C7, F. The piece ends with a double bar line and repeat sign. The text '4 times (W.H. 16/5/87)' is written below the final measure.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Ball del Ram has drawn a blank - maybe we'll do better next month with the music for **Der Lüstiger. Ed.**



SIFD Monthly Dance

SIFD Dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre 29 Hopkinsons Place, Fitzroy Road London NW1 8TN Sunday 6th November 7pm -9.45pm
Jill Bransby will be leading the dance in November and as usual we will enjoy dancing to live music from the SIFD band.

The pre-Christmas dance on 4th December will be a programme of requests. You can add your favourite dance to the list which will be available at the November dance or email: jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk

Anne Maddocks

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,
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judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk
- Secretary: Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park,
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Holly Payling 4 Hobart Walk, St Albans, AL3 6LS 07784 117599
hollycp@hotmail.co.uk

WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

- S.I **Fri. 4th - Sun.6th TURGAY ONATLI** teaches dances from Turkey in Calver, Derbyshire. Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email to *cathy_meunier@hotmail.com*
- Saturday 5th KLEZMER KLUB** 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs: tel: 020 7281 7700 songs from the Jewish diaspora.
- S.I **Sunday 6th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** - see page 14
- Thursday 10th SERBIAN DANCE WORKSHOP IN OXFORD** with Sasha Smrekic (accordion) and Vladica Tanasijevic. St. Margaret`s Institute, Polstead Road (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 8:15 to 10:15. £5.00. for more information email: *sallylhumphrey@gmail.com* or *charlotte@haenlein.co.uk*
- S.I **Friday 11th SERBIAN DANCE WORKSHOP AT BARNET** with Vladica & Sasha A taste of what to expect at the Balkanplus weekend workshops. 8pm at Church House, Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW £10 (£5 concessions) Contact: Brian 01992 582717
- S.I **Sat.12th-Sun.13th BALKANPLUS SERBIAN DANCE W/SHOPS** Sasha Smrekic (accordion) & Vladica Tanasijevic. Tel. 01992 58271 Sat. w/shop: £30 (£25)10.30am-4.30pm at Primrose Hill C.Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Rd) London NW1 8TN. Sat. Party: £10 7-10.30pm, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent`s Park Road, Ldn NW1 7AY Sun.w/shop: £25 (£20)10.30am-4.30pm at Mazenod C. Centre Mazenod Ave. Kilburn, Ldn NW6 4LS W/end package: £60* (£40)* £50 for SIFD members. Cheque payable to Balkanplus & sae to M. Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG or: Brian 0199258271***bvdowsett@aol.com***
- Sat.26th - Sun.27th DANCES OF THE SILK ROUTE** (Dances from Iran, Daghestani, Uzbekistan, and Afganistan) with Helene Eriksen (from USA) in Mapperley, Nottinghamshire. Cost £75. *Chrisandra@tesco.net* or 0115 9554962.
- Saturday 26th A DAY OF (MOSTLY) RUSSIAN DANCES** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall near Eastbourne BN24 5EH with Rowena Martin. 10.30 for 11.00 - 4.30. £10. Shared lunch. Please book. 01323 503991 or *rowenahmartin@hotmail.com*.