

Society for International Folk Dancing

# SIFD NEWS



# January 2017

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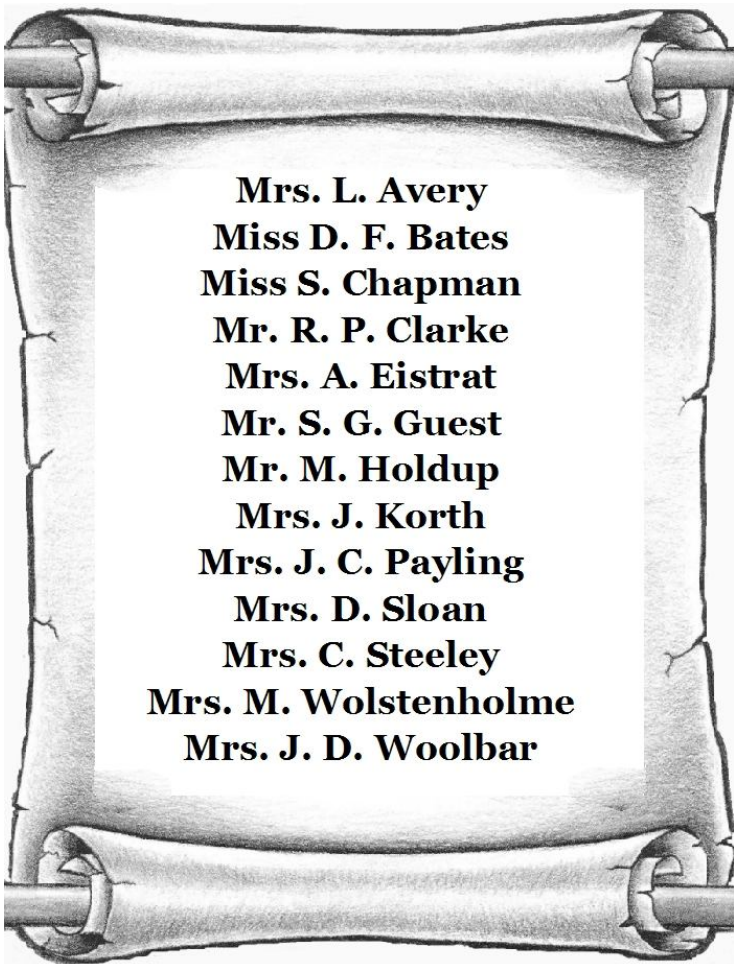
Especially for 2017 - **AN EXTRA DAY !** (every month!) due to Dalila, Tony at Barnet Church and myself harnessing technology, we have streamlined production of the News, so that now the last date for submissions for the following month will be **'the 18th'**.

An illustration from August 1970 by Ellis Thomas is on the front cover.

Happy New Year with lots of dancing to you all.

**Ed.**

### **SIFD Honorary Members**



**Mrs. L. Avery**  
**Miss D. F. Bates**  
**Miss S. Chapman**  
**Mr. R. P. Clarke**  
**Mrs. A. Eistrat**  
**Mr. S. G. Guest**  
**Mr. M. Holdup**  
**Mrs. J. Korth**  
**Mrs. J. C. Payling**  
**Mrs. D. Sloan**  
**Mrs. C. Steeley**  
**Mrs. M. Wolstenholme**  
**Mrs. J. D. Woolbar**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Feb.4: BALKANPLUS** see page 11
- 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. 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 provided in advance. Pre-booking essential. contact Cathy Meunier (see above)
- S.I **Mar. 11 BALKANPLUS** MC will be Bob Robinson
- S.I **Mar. 21 EVENING BALKAN DANCE WITH DALE HYDE** 7p.m- 9.30.p.m. £5 . Hosted by Barlow I.F.D.G. at St. Ninians Church, Egerton Rd. South, Chorlton, Manchester, M21 0XJ. Contact Mary to book a place on 0161 881 0955. or *maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk*.
- S.I **Apr.1-2: A WEEKEND WITH VENTZI SOTIROV** Oxford Balkansko Oro (see page ) Sat.1st: 10.30-4.30 £25. Sun. 2nd: 10:30-4:30 £25. price for the full weekend: £45. Thursday 6th April 7:-10:00 £7. workshops will all take place at St. Margaret's Insititute, Polstead Road, (off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. *sallylhumphrey@gmail.com* or *charlotte@haenlein.co.uk*
- S.I **Apr. 4: BULGARIAN DANCE WITH VENTZI SOTIROV.** 7p.m - 9.30p.m - £5 Hosted by Barlow I.F.D.G at St Ninians Church, Egerton Rd South, Chorlton Manchester, M21 0XJ. Contact Mary to book a place on 0161 881 0955 or *maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk*
- Apr.6: VENTZI SOTIROV** Oxford Balkansko Oro (see above)

- S.I **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](mailto:j.king194@btinternet.com). Cost for the day £12.
- S.I **Apr. 8: VENTZI SOTIROV WORKSHOP** see page 8
- S.I **Apr. 28 - May 1: SIFD WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor, N. Somerset. A weekend of Folk Dancing led by Janet Woolbar & Music led by Stella Wentworth. Contact Robin and Judy Morris – 01564773482 - 07966785172 or [robinnimbo@aol.com](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com)
- Apr. 28 - May 1: EASTBOURNE INT. FOLK FESTIVAL** contact Maureen: 01823 401271. "Early Bird" tickets - £85 (saving £15) available until January 12th
- S.I **May 5 - 8: GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** Warwickshire near Alcester, International Dancing with Nel van der Laan. Other varied dancing, music, handbells, Maypole, singing, walking and cycling. [www.greatalnefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk) or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.
- Jun. 10: A DAY OF (MOSTLY) ARMENIAN DANCES** with Dalila Heath in Derbyshire. 10.30-4.30 at Coal Aston Village Hall, Eckington Rd, Coal Aston, Dronfield S18 3AX. £12 Please book. Contact Gill Seller 01246 410020 or [ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com](mailto:ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com)



*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 February issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 18<sup>th</sup> January.*

## Miscellaneous Items Available

I have undertaken to dispose of the remaining items from the collection of Loes Abrahams who can no longer dance. The remaining music and dance notes have gone to Ron Wilks to be digitised but I still have available:

1. Teach yourself Bulgarian - 5 cassettes.

2. Books:

Balkan Folk Songs. Carl Silverman (ed) University of Oregon. Words only with English translation.

Balkan Dance Music Book. Liz Mellish & Nick Green 1997.

Griekse Dansen. Dick van der Zwan. Dance notes in Dutch.

The Jewish Dance. Fred Berk (ed). An Articles of Articles, illustrated. New York. Exposition Press 1960

The Morris & Sword Dances of England. The Morris Ring. 1961

English Folk Dancing Today and Yesterday. Douglas Kennedy. London. G Bell 1964

The Country Dance Book. Cecil Sharp. pt 4 (1927) & pt 5 (1918). London. Novello.

Cusaturi Traditionale din Bucovina. Ileana Cretan. Bucuresti. 1984. Embroidery patterns

Culegere de Cusaturi Populare. Tatiana Panait. Bucuresti. 1989. Embroidery patterns

Enige Praktische Wenken voor de Volksdansbegelieder. Anton H van Renssenn. 1961. Nederlandse Volkdans Stichting. Dutch notes and music.

Holland as seen in the English Country Dance 1713-1820. 1960. Nederlandse Volkdans Stichting. Notes and music.

European Folk Dress; a bibliography. James Snowden. The Costume Society 1973.

Zo Danst Europa. Photographs of European folk dancing and costume.

3. A "costume" (photo opposite). It has no specific nationality but was made for a ballet competition many years ago. It would suit a girl of about 10 or 11 who would like to dress up at a dance event. It comprises dark blue skirt plus fringed apron, white blouse

(with peplum), orange velvet embroidered waistcoat and a headscarf.

I would prefer these to go to a good home (no charge except postage if necessary).

Otherwise they'll go to a charity shop.

**Hilda Sturge**

0117 9621802  
*roger@rogersturge.me.uk*



## **Eastbourne International Folk Festival:**

Friday 28th April - Monday 1st May 2017

"Early Bird" tickets at £85 (saving £15) will only be available until the 12th January 2017, so book very soon if you want to obtain the special deal.

New to the programme since the November SIFD News is the addition of the band "Ramishkata" who be playing for us at various times during the weekend.

The festival still welcomes offers of help with stewarding the weekend. 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.

As you may have seen, various members of the festival team intend to retire from running the festival in 2018, and that includes us! We invite offers from anyone who would like to shadow us in preparation for taking over our role in 2019. The festival website, [eiff.org.uk](http://eiff.org.uk) gives the latest information.

**Ron & Jean Wilks**

## Balkanplus: looking ahead

I'm sure Diki's enthusiastic letter last month echoed the feelings of everyone who attended the Serbian dance workshops. Vladica and Sasha will undoubtedly return to the UK before too long whether it is through an invitation from Balkanplus again or from another organiser. In the meantime, a reminder that they are taking bookings for their next workshop holiday from 4th to 14th August 2017 in two mountain resorts with traditional Serbian chalets and serving local home-made meals. For full information e-mail Vladica ([urke2007@gmail.com](mailto:urke2007@gmail.com)) though, alternatively, I have scanned his flyer and can send it as an e-mail attachment to anyone interested.

In recent years we have had fruitful joint ventures with Oxford Balkansko Oro and groups in the north, notably the Barlow group. Stephie Clark (Oxford) has managed to lure her friend Ventzi Sotirov over from Chicago again. The former lead dancer with the Pirin Ensemble will be teaching in Oxford on the first weekend in April and – via Manchester – will give a workshop at Primrose Hill Community Centre on Saturday 8th April before Balkanplus at Cecil Sharp House in the evening MC-ed by the Oxford group. We invite you to judge who is more charismatic, Ventzi or Vladica. A close call I reckon!



Balkanplus is pleased to announce the return of Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov in September, again with visits to Oxford and Manchester after the workshop weekend in London.



With Cecil Sharp House unavailable, I have managed to book the Saturday daytime workshop at Primrose Hill Primary School in nearby Princess Road and the evening at the Primrose Hill Community Centre's lower hall. The Sunday workshop will be in the upper hall there. Those of us who have had the pleasure of meeting this internationally acclaimed duo will need no encouragement to register for the workshops. Incidentally, they were due to meet Vladica & Sasha for the first time in Switzerland last month. That would have been a great combination. Furthermore, I can give the first mention of another amazing folkloric tour of Bulgaria organised by Iliana, planned for early July 2018 and likely to take in Sofia, Shopluk and mountain regions to the east. Full details will be announced during her visit in September. Details of the Balkanplus 2017 workshops are given below. We are indeed looking ahead to another fabulous year.

Saturday 8th April

**Bulgarian dance workshop with Ventzi Sotirov**

10.30am to 4.30pm at Primrose Hill Community Centre (upper hall)

29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Road), London NW1 8TN

£25 Cheques payable to Balkanplus & SAE to Maureen Felton  
28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG

Note the workshop is followed by the Balkanplus monthly dance at Cecil Sharp House featuring Ventzi & Oxford Balkansko Oro

16th and 17th September

**Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov**

Saturday: 10.30am to 4.30pm at Primrose Hill Primary School  
Princess Road, Regents Park, London NW1 8JL

6pm to 10pm at Primrose Hill Community Centre (lower hall)

Sunday: 10.30 to 4.30pm in the Community Centre upper hall

Early bird prices (in brackets) are offered until the end of July  
Saturday £40 (35) Sunday £25 (20) Weekend £60 (50)

Further reductions will be given to Balkanplus season ticket holders. Cheques to Maureen – as above. Contact me for further information.

**Brian Dowsett** *bvdowsett@aol.com*

## History to the present:

Jill's contribution to the story of the SIFD ended in the 1990,s with a severe shortage of funds.

I chaired just for a couple of years, as a temporary measure but did not have the experience or time to do it well for the usual 4 or 5 years and handed over to Mike Gilbert after less than 2 years, having seen the 50th Anniversary celebrations and the publication of "fifty dancing years". Several others followed and may be able to fill in the gap.

My involvement started again in about 2007, when Roger Sturge was Chairman. His strengths and experience of managing other charities had helped the society build a new constitution and start to work on publicity in an effort to gain more members. Helen Ezra followed him. Again, I will leave them to make their contribution for those years.

Until the late 1990s we had several very large classes operating as Adult Education Classes, funded and advertised by local authorities. When budgets were reduced the emphasis in Adult Education moved to academic and vocational training and recreational classes started to close. Some of our teachers lost both income and an easy source of new members.

In Jill's time the Society was facing severe financial difficulties but through the good money management of successive committees, and especially our long-serving and careful treasurer, together with some generous legacies we can now afford to invest in new projects and publicity. We are also facing political changes that could affect which overseas teachers can visit to teach here, but cannot do much about it at the moment.

We can start to share much more of our archives: see the article on the "Digital Archive".

Even now we must still take care that we do not waste money on activities that make a loss: Summer School may not run again in the way it has done in the past, although we have had offers for help much more thought is needed before running anything.

The two long standing residential weekends: at Halsway Manor and at Dunford have been run by volunteers under the SIFD name for many years without asking the SIFD for any support other than listing in the News and Website. However, Dunford will only continue if someone can take over from Dot Bradbury and enough people are interested in a weekend of mixed international just before Christmas to cover the costs.

**Jeanette Hull**



## **Balkanplus**

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 14th January at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be Jill Bransby and Rainmakers. Admission £6.

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 4th February at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be Nick Green and Liz Mellish. Admission £6.

**Maureen Felton**



"We will be leading dances, and some dance "reminders" when needed, at the February Balkanplus. As usual we hope to include many dance "oldies" from the ever more distant past of Balkanplus, typical social dances from all around the Balkans that we know from our travels, and with a little help from our friends include dances from the recent visiting teachers such as Marius and Vladica.

Please be sure to note that this Balkanplus is moved to the first Saturday of February."

**Nick and Liz**





## Day Courses In London

The Day courses were started many years ago to raise standards by running days concentrating on a particular style, and encouraging members to take short tests to show they could dance well, earning a certificate and a silver coloured badge if they passed. Those with 5 silvers were awarded gold and could enrol on the teaching course (if you see someone with a badge with green enamelling it's a sign they have a teachers certificate).

As the society's repertoire and interests widened and fewer new people wanted to take tests the badge system fell into disuse. Day courses became a way of sharing repertoire or learning from visiting expert teachers. The price and availability of a suitable hall is a problem. Membership of the London general classes has fallen and one result is that fewer people are attending the day courses.

At the December committee meeting we reluctantly decided that we need to suspend the spring and summer day courses, review our plans and either restart with a strong and well advertised programme in the Autumn that will attract people from a wider area and people new to International Folk Dance, to raise prices significantly and keep the group small, or to cease altogether.

We have requests for English, Maori and French, and requests for "dances suitable for the less fit", "challenging dances", "a day focusing on good skills and style", "skills for MCs/ callers", "dances suitable for social events".

Please send me your opinions and suggestions for how we should proceed.

**Jeanette Hull**



## 2017 March Day Course

Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group near Nottingham.

Try something different – something new – from across the pond

We are hosting Dale Hyde who will be in England for a holiday in March 2017. On Thursday March 23rd Dale will be joining Nutbrook I.F.D.G's club night and then leading workshops on Saturday 25th, both of which will be held at Grangewood Methodist Church, our usual venue.

This will be an opportunity to experience dances from the New World, from South America, Chile, Mexico and Argentina. During the afternoon Dale will lead us into traditional Canadian dances which he has researched over many years. The day looks to be an exciting and interesting day.

The day will be followed by one of our popular buffets (only if pre-ordered) and then a barn dance. The music will be provided by Belzebub a popular dance band with many years of experience playing for many folk dances and demonstrations. It will be a privilege to dance to their music. There will be 3 callers leading a variety of dances from around the world, some traditional English folk, some English folk dance as danced in Canada and some familiar European and Balkan dances.

There is an early bird price of £18 before February 1st and the buffet needs to be booked prior to March 16th. Ticket prices - £20 for all day, £12 for day only, £5 buffet only, £7 Dance only. Application forms and information is on the website – [www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk](http://www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk) or [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)

Come and enjoy fun and friendship here in the Midlands. We have good roads and rail connections.

**Gill Morral**



## Letters:

I have received the usual Christmas letter from Ruth Coton (née Sharp) and am pleased to pass on her news to those who remember her. Ruth is a longstanding member of the SIFD and some older members will remember her as the teacher at Harrow Green Folkdance Group, teaching a wide variety of dances.

Ruth is now in her 90s but keeps very active at her home in Australia. She is still able to look after herself and “do her chores” as she says, and able to take part in outside activities as well as more sedentary hobbies such as craftwork, needlework, reading and jigsaw puzzles, and of courses her embroidery at which she has always been very skilful and tries to pass on this skill to younger pupils. She spent quite a bit of time teaching me the intricacies of folk embroidery when we danced in a Russian team at the Royal Albert Hall and had to make our own costumes, having been given one authentic costume direct from Russia and having to make copies.

Although Ruth's, and my, dancing days are long gone it is good to keep contact with friends made through the SIFD and our love of dancing - especially by a handwritten letter!

**Lily Avery**



Some members may remember Dancing England, which took place in Derby Assembly Rooms for a few years in the 80s, with displays of a remarkable range of traditional English kinds of dance as well as social dancing to bands such as Bob Cann's.

Dancing England is now being revived: it is to take place on Saturday 18th February 2017, now in Sheffield at the City Hall. Further information at

*<http://www.dancingengland.co.uk>*

**Richard Mellish**

# Postvierer

German

Intro : 8 bars  
x3 + Finish on A

10 D A7 D A7 D

20 Bb Eb F7 Bb

30 Chorus Bb F7 Bb F C7 F

D A7 D A7 D

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



A postscript to '**Der Lüstiger**' on page 14 of the latest SIFD News:

There should not be an 'Umlaut' (two dots) over the 'u'. 'Umlaut means 'sound change' and, while the unadorned 'u' is pronounced like the 'u' in 'pull' the dots change the sound to the 'u' in French 'tu'. It does not apply here. The adjective 'lustig' means funny or happy, and '**Der Lustiger**' means 'the happy one', hence the exuberant mood of the dance. I learned to play it in the 1960s with the Folkestone District National Folkdance Group, and I assure you there were no shared tights as in your note last month!

According to my memory, **Postvierer** was introduced to SIFD by Joan Richardson.

**Caroline Thomas**



Next month the music for **Erva Cidera** from Portugal will be published; any notes, observations or memories welcome.

**Ed.**

## SIFD Committee

- Chair: Jeanette Hull 39 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4 4HJ  
07722 655481 *jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk*
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Holly Payling 4 Hobart Walk, St Albans, AL3 6LS 07784 117599  
*hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*



## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

- S.I **Sunday 8th NEW YEAR BALKAN DANCE PARTY** at  
Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR from 11.30 to  
16.30. Bring and share lunch. Cost £5. Book your place with  
Greg Boyd on 07810181273/*gregboyd99@aol.com* or Janet King  
on 0162957065/*j.king194@btinternet.com*
- S.I **Sunday 8th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** at Primrose Hill
- S.I **Saturday 14th BALKANPLUS** - see page 11
- S.I **Saturday 28: OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**  
St.Margaret's Inst. Polstead Rd. (off Woodstock Rd), Oxford,  
OX2 6TN. 7-10:30. Food & drink provided. Music: CDs &  
Dunav. Tickets at the door: Adults: £10 children under 14:  
£3.00; children under 4: free. Wear a costume if you would like  
to. *sallylhumphrey@gmail.com* or *charlotte@haenlein.co.uk*