

Society for International Folk Dancing

# SIFD NEWS



*February 2017*

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

Registered Charity Number 284509

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

Short and sweet this month - like the sunshine!  
Details of the cover picture from Jill, below.

**Ed.**



Dear Janet,

I thought the photo might amuse our members. It was taken at the Staplers English Dance Club's Christmas Party when Graham Styles and I were dancing the Estonian Dance Sadala Polka. We are wearing SIFD Swedish costumes, kindly lent to us by Janet Woolbar, as there are no Estonian costumes in the collection. The photographer Nick Bedford said that we looked as if we were performing yogic flying!

**Jill Bransby**



### **SIFD members spotted on TV**

I know we all spend more time dancing than watching TV, but just in case you saw it: there were some SIFD members in the "Swedish" wedding scene on Holby City on 3rd January, acting as wedding guests and dancing a schottis and a waltz, wearing the SIFD's collection of Scandinavian costumes. Each dance took half a day to film, for just a couple of minutes on screen, including dancing in silence while the musicians mimed so that dialogue could be recorded.

I have also heard that a couple of our members will appear in Regency guise at some time, in a crime drama.

**Jeanette Hull**



### **Day courses**

I am waiting and hoping for more responses to last months notice about London Day Courses.

**Jeanette Hull**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Mar. 11 BALKANPLUS** MC will be Bob Robinson
- S.I **Mar.21: EVENING OF 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*.
- Mar.26: DANCE WORKSHOP WITH DALE HYDE** at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR . 11.00-16.30. dances from the Balkans and a selection from Chile, Mexico, Argentina & Canada. Light refreshments provided. Cost £11. Book your place with Greg Boyd on 07810 181273 or *gregboyd99@aol.com*
- S.I **Apr.1-2: A WEEKEND WITH VENTZI SOTIROV** Oxford Balkansko Oro 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. Tickets are limited so if you are interested please book a place as soon as you can. *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*
- S.I **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*. Cost for the day £12.
- S.I **Apr. 8: BALKANPLUS** MCs will be the Oxford Group
- S.I **Apr. 8: VENTZI SOTIROV WORKSHOP** Bulgarian dance w/shop 10.30am-4.30pm at Primrose Hill Community Centre (upper hall) 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Rd), London NW1 8TN £25 Cheques payable to Balkanplus & SAE to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG Note - workshop is followed by Balkanplus monthly dance at Cecil Sharp House featuring Ventzi & Oxford Balkansko Oro

- S.I **Apr. 9: GREEK FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP** Dimitris Triandafyllidis will be teaching dances from West Thrace at St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Road, Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LB (just off the A23) from 10:30 to 4:30. £30 including refreshments. Cheques made out to 'Helios' should be sent to Sue King, 83 Upland Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5JA
- S.I **Apr. 28 - May 1: SIFD WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor, N. Somerset, with Janet Woolbar & Stella Wentworth. Contact Robin & Judy Morris - 01564773482 - 07966785172 or [robinnimbo@aol.com](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com)
- Apr. 28 - May 1: EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL** tel:01823 401271
- 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. For further information see website at [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: Gill Seller 01246 410020 or [ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com](mailto:ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com)
- S.I **Aug 25-28: WILLINGDON IFDG MINI FESTIVAL** of International and English Folk Dance, Circle Dance and singing at Plumpton College nr Lewes, East Sussex. £180 full board. Contact Rowena Martin, 60 Anderida Road, Eastbourne BN22 0PZ ; 01323 503991 or [rowenahmartin@hotmail.com](mailto:rowenahmartin@hotmail.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.*

- S.I **2017 SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH WEEKEND**
- Fri 20th – Sun 22nd October** with Cathy Meunier, at Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, Nr. Matlock, Derbys. **NOW BOOKING**  
For more details and booking email Maggie Kaye ([margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk)) or phone 0797-464-9311 (mobile)

## **Mona Graham**

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of our very good friend Mona. Not just our friend, of course, but a loved and loving friend of many SIFD members.

Mona was an excellent dancer and teacher and an inspiration to all who shared her love of dancing. We first got to know Mona when she came with a group of dancers from the Watford area to a class we ran in the church hall in New Barnet. Such an enjoyable class with such wonderful people.



Mona came on several holidays abroad (Austria, Switzerland, France) as an enthusiastic member of our "gang" and shared unforgettable experiences with us. ("Why don't we go to Scotland", she said, "and then I could be the interpreter!").

We will all miss her so much and we are sure that Members will join us in sending our deepest sympathy to her husband, Tommy, and her family.

**Joan & Simon Guest**

≈

## **Memories of Mona**

Monica Graham (Mona) was one of the first people I met after finding out about the SIFD back in the late 70's and joining a class - she remained a good friend ever since. She was a lovely warm-hearted person, generous with her dancing knowledge and a beautiful dancer. Even when she slowed down in her later years, her style was always graceful, elegant and a pleasure to watch. She never trained as a SIFD teacher but taught dances to children at the school where she worked as a dinner lady and shared her native country's dances by leading a SIFD day course in Scottish dancing some years back. She was a natural teacher mainly because of her eagerness for others to learn and enjoy what she loved. She taught a weekly class for adults in Croxley Green for many years and only stopped in the summer of 2015 when her health deteriorated.

*cont.>*

We met mainly at dance events but, in the early years of our friendship, she also took care of my children some evenings. I well remember coming home late to find them still awake and enjoying her company! She loved to pass on jokes and often made slips of the tongue with the letters of words interchanged with hilarious results. I wish I could remember an example, though sometimes they turned out quite rude! When I phoned round to pass on the news of her death to others, most people's first comment was 'such a lovely person'. She was indeed a special lady and we will all miss you dear Mona.

**Meryl Abraham**



## **Visit to Aulona Festival in Vlore, Albania**

10th-15th May 2017

Penny Munden from Zivko Firfov dance group would like to hear from anyone interested in attending the three day folk festival in the south-western coastal city, home of Albanian independence. Groups performing at the festival come from Albania and surrounding Balkan nations plus Poland and Italy. Flying to Corfu and crossing by ferry we will start and finish the tour in the southern town of Saranda and have a chance to visit two nearby UNESCO World Heritage sites, as well as



places of interest in Vlore. There will be scenic drives to and from Vlora. We will stay in comfortable hotels in the two cities and enjoy some good local restaurants. Hopefully we will be joined by a London Morris dance group. Please refer to my article in the November 2016 issue of the SIFD News. If you are interested in joining me, contact me by email at [albanian.nature@talktalk.net](mailto:albanian.nature@talktalk.net)

**Penny Munden**

## **Balkanplus**

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.

“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**



## **Rivieradance! 2018**

The Livermead House hotel is booked for RIVIERADANCE! 2018

The dates are: Wednesday 8th - Monday 12th February 2018

I am delighted to say that we have our much-loved Israeli dance teacher VINCENT PARODI back again, together with STEVE KOTANSKY, world renowned folk dance specialist.

You may not have met Steve Kotansky, but you have probably danced some of his dances for example, Moj Marine, Moj Maro, Valle Nuseve, Sarakatsani Tsamiko.

He has a huge repertoire of dances, and extensive knowledge through his research trips to Bulgaria, former Yugoslavia, Romania, Hungary and Greece. More recently he has been researching Albanian and Roma dances from the Diaspora.

Save the dates and don't miss this opportunity to dance with these amazing teachers!

**Cathy Meunier**



## Letters;

45 Oak Street, Fakenham, Norfolk. NR21 9DX. 01328 856582  
*dawnwakefield7@gmail.com*

Dear SIFD News,

Much as I enjoy all the nostalgic articles in SIFD News, I would like to ask a question to members about current and future use of music provision for dance. For many years I used a trusty old CD player/ghetto blaster to provide music for my Balkan dance session and then when this went into terminal decline I have ended up using my laptop fed into a separate speaker - which while it works - always leaves me a bit anxious as sometimes computers do let you down and I would welcome advice from any members with the relevant know how - as to what they recommend using from the wide array of possibilities in the modern world.

**Dawn Wakefield**



Lily Avery sent in the notes (letter overleaf) for **Erva Cidera:**  
**- Portugal**

Couples in a circle facing anti-clockwise, man behind lady.  
Left hand on own shoulder, right hand holding left hand of  
person in front.

- Bars 1-8 All start on right foot, walk 16 steps changing direction on last  
2 steps (don't let go hands, right hand should now be on own  
right shoulder)
- Bars 9-16 Repeat bars 1 to 8 in opposite direction
- Bars 17-19 Face partner and do-si-do, right shoulders, with partner  
clapping 7 times
- Bars 20-21 Swing partner clockwise ballroom hold
- Bars 22-24 Do-si-do left shoulders clapping 7 times
- Bars 25-26 Swing partner anti-clockwise ballroom hold Turn lady  
at the end to start the dance again

## Erva Cidera

Portugal

The image shows a musical score for the dance 'Erva Cidera' in 4/4 time. It consists of two staves. The top staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature of 6. The bottom staff is in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#). The music is written in a simple, rhythmic style. Chords are indicated below the notes: Am, E7, and A. The score ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Re **Erva Cidera**; this was one of the few Portuguese dances that used to be in our repertoire.

The instruments traditionally used in Portugal were occasionally the accordion but more usually guitars, drums, tambourines and home-made percussion instruments - sticks, bottles, shells. But the main accompaniment demonstrated by Lucile Armstrong when she encouraged us to dance Portuguese dances.

"Ill tootle while you dance"!

Lily Avery



**Erva Cidera** comes from Portugal and is described on page 16 of *Dancing into Europe*. The latter was published with a video of children performing the dances. These were produced in 1993 for use with children in primary schools. (I mentioned this in my letter about the 1990s on page 8 of the December SIFD News.)

Jill Bransby



I am learning to play **Erva Cidera** and *Senhor da Serra* on the accordion, (which Irene Nichols and Brian Dowsett kindly provided) with variable success. The notes on the keyboard are fine, but finding buttons with the left hand (identified with blutak - and often sticking to my fingers) is more difficult. My group may have to wait on one leg quite a bit while I find the right button!

Next month the Hungarian girls' dance from Bag - **Bagi Lánytanc**. 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*

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



## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- S.I **Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS** see page 8
- S.I **Wed.8<sup>th</sup>-Mon.13<sup>th</sup> RIVIERADANCE! 2017** Res. Folk dance holiday with Yves Moreau, France Bourque-Moreau, Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion. 5 nights full board. £470 (full-days) or £400 (half-days) res. Dance course; £310 for non-dancing friends & family. email [cathy\\_meunier@hotmail.com](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com) website: [www.balkanfolkdance.org](http://www.balkanfolkdance.org) or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX
- S.I **Fri.10<sup>th</sup>-Sat.11<sup>th</sup> 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)
- S.I **Friday 24<sup>th</sup> RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL DANCE GROUP** will be holding a French Dance Evening with live music from Danse-Herts Musicians, 8-10.45 pm. Cost £5. The Parish Hall, St. Michaels, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 3PQ. Contact: 01462 454210 or 01462 457791 for further information.



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