

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



MARCH 2017

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

The absence of Estonian costumes (last month) prompted me to use a picture of Estonians dancing Raksi Jaak for the front cover.

The latest issue of Folk Dancer Online (which may be viewed on the OFDA website: <http://ofda.ca/wp/magazine/>) has two articles by Lucile Armstrong; one - the origins of folklore and the other - the Morris. Her message as always asks that we do not change or adapt dances or the real history will be lost.

Although 'folk' dances have often evolved, they evolved with the 'folk' who danced them. I increasingly label many of the folk dances we learn as 'historic' if their original folk have abandoned or forgotten them.

Labelling can influence the take-up of new dancers; if 'folk' didn't do it, or 'traditional', or 'world' the word 'historic' might.

Ed.



AGM 2017 : Invitation to host in September 2017

We hold the AGM in a different place every year to give as many members as possible a turn to have a short journey. We can pay towards the costs so that the host group is not out of pocket. The host group also usually organises a workshop and social dance to make the most of the opportunity to attract people from outside their own area.

If you would like to host the meeting this year please contact Dalila Heath (see committee listing for her address). It must take place before the end of September.

We would also like to know of any events that could clash we do not want to have two competing events at the same time, so please let us know of any plans for weekends, workshop etc. in September.

If we do not hear from any suitable hosts the meeting will be held in London, in early September.

Jeanette Hull



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Apr.1-2: OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO - WEEKEND** with Ventzi Sotirov. Workshops will all take place at St. Margaret's Inst., Polstead Rd. (off Woodstock Rd), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 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. 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)
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: VENTZI SOTIROV WORKSHOP** Bulgarian dance workshop - 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
- S.I **Apr. 8: BALKANPLUS** MCs will be the Oxford Group
- 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*

Apr. 28 - May 1: EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL

- 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 or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.
- S.I **May 12: DANISH WORKSHOP WITH ANNE LEACH**, 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).
- S.I **May 13: BALKANPLUS** MC will be Jane Goode
- 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
- 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.
- S.I **Sep. 16-17 BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOPS WITH ILIANA BOZHANOVA** Sat. 10.30-4.30pm at Primrose Hill Primary School, Princess Rd. Regents Park, London NW1 8JL 5-10pm at Primrose Hill Community Centre (lower hall) 29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Rd), Ldn. NW1 8TN Sun.10.30- 4.30pm at The Place, 17 Duke's Rd. Ldn. WC1H 9PY Prices: Sat. £40 (35) Sun. £25 (20) Weekend package £60 (50) Early bird prices (in brackets) offered until July. Further discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Cheques payable to Balkanplus. Send with SAE to Maureen Felton 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG
- S.I **Oct. 20-22: SIFD WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH WEEKEND** with Cathy Meunier, at Willersley Castle Hotel, Cromford, Nr. Matlock, Derbys. For more details and booking email Maggie Kaye (margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk) or phone 0797-464-9311 (mobile)

Pembrokeshire International Folk Dance group

I guess it had to happen sooner or later; stop dancing. I can manage a few bars (not booze) now and then but that's it. My body is worn out. P.I.F.D was no longer viable and we closed in December after 33 years, the last 20 being in the same hall. We had a party and our last dance was LASSKE VANOCHI KOLO. The candle dance from the Czech Republic.

A couple of years ago we decided not to do any more demonstrations and our costumes found a new home through the S.I.F.D News. Now it's just the personal costumes to say nothing of all the records, tapes, books notes etc. etc. For health reasons, or is it simply old age (84?) I had been reducing my activities. Now I feel lost. HELP!!!

Charles Collingwood introduced me to S.I.F.D in 1954. He took me to a Sunday dance at Cecil Sharp House where most of the dancers wore costumes. A visiting group from Malaysia gave a display of Candle dances. I was hooked. Thank you Charles and all the people who have helped me to enjoy so many memorable moments. Folk dancing has opened so many doors for me including some abroad. Roy Clarke's recent letters to the News have been of particular interest and have had me searching, and enjoying, going through the albums and through the memories of my mind. Here are some of them in no particular order.

Day courses with Marina in Derbyshire; Weekends away with Bisham Abby being a favourite where Ghosts came to meet us and open and close the doors as we tried to keep warm around the log fires. The dancers told stories, played unusual musical instruments and drunk home brew, all in moderation. There were Festivals to visit and one of my favourites was the Sidmouth festival and, on a much smaller scale, one we attended in Norway. One memory from Sidmouth was dancing in the streets and especially on the sea front where 10 year old children would practice music learned earlier their music sheets held down from the wind by pebbles from the beach. They were very happy days. It was not unusual for dancers heading home to drop in to London and join other S.I.F.D. members for a couple more hours of dancing. The brand new rehearsal rooms in Floral Street was a popular venue as was, in much earlier days, some cellar rooms (Inns of Court?) or some similar name.

What I do remember was dancing Gamboliner Holzschuh Tanz with Roy Clarke and banging my head on the ceiling then going to the local for a quick pint to recover!. Taking part in the Albert Hall show with the Harrow Green group. We chose Swedish dances and were trained by Pug. That was wonderful. Those of you who remember Pug will not be surprised at how hard she worked us and the attention given to detail. We laughed a lot and loved it all.

Do you remember the boat trip down the Thames with Fiona as Captain? The memory I hold firm from that trip was the many bridges we went under and how dizzy I felt fast turning the Hambo whilst doing so. The Safaris we enjoyed when joining the Midlands Group were great fun. Being moved on by the Police at Sidmouth whilst we attempted to dance through the ford accompanied by day to day traffic.

Then, of course, the Summer schools. At one time at Swansea the afternoons were spent on the beaches, a different one every day then, covered in sand, we went straight back to Uni for more classes and in to dinner and finally, still covered in sand, a few more hours of dancing. Does anyone remember a highly entertaining incident on one of the Gower beaches? Jack Richardson led a group down to the beach and then decided he wanted a swim but this meant removing his artificial leg. Jack called for help and I responded but I had difficulty doing so until someone yelled out I was trying to remove the good leg!. All went well until the tide turned and an anxious voice boomed out from behind a wave “Will someone save my leg please?”

“And what about the dancing?” I hear you say. Some one else can write about that. Happy days.

Sue Clark. Pembrokeshire.

Please come and see me



The **March Balkanplus** will be held on the 11th March at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.
MC will be Bob Robinson. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton

Balkanplus Bulletin

A gentle reminder that the charismatic Bulgarian dancer teacher Ventzi Sotirov is coming over from Chicago in April at the invitation of Oxford Balkansko Oro. There will be a one day workshop at the Primrose Hill Community Centre on Saturday 8th April followed by the monthly Balkanplus dance at Cecil Sharp House MCed by the Oxford group. We anticipate a fabulous day. Tickets for the workshop are still available at the time of writing.

Tickets are also available now for Iliana Bozhanova's workshops on 16th and 17th September. Although it does not coincide with the monthly Balkanplus dance, participants will have access to the community centre in the evening where we can dance, sing and make merry. The Sunday workshop will now be at The Place dance studios subject to confirmation in May. Why not save on postage and book for both Ventzi and Iliana now? For full details see Dates for Your Diary.

Brian Dowsett



Sunday Dances

The Sunday Dances will be at the Primrose Hill Community Centre, on the first Sunday every month this year. The next one is on the 5th March. This venue is a perfect size for the group, we have exclusive use of the kitchen area. It's a short walk from Camden, next to Primrose Hill itself. The dances are "beginner friendly" and we will be advertising in the local area, but there will be a few more challenging dances for fit people with good memories!

Address: Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinsons Place, Fitzroy Road London. There are usually plenty of parking places in the road, but you need to cross a cobbled yard to get to the Hall, then upstairs to the dance hall and kitchen. There is a stair lift, but it would be sensible to check in advance that it is working properly.

Jeanette Hull

Banatfolk: Romanian Folk Dance Seminar 14th edition

Organized by Marius Ursu

Location : Timisoara, south west Romania with an excursions to the Transylvanian towns of Hunedoara, Deva and Alba Iulia

Dates: 4th – 14th of July 2017

Price: 780 euro. (580 euro for non-dancers)

Full board, double accommodations in hotels, dance course, cultural activities, excursions and transportation to all seminar activities. An additional 200 euro is required for a single room.

Activities: Dance course with teachers: Maria and Marius Ursu, also master choreographers of the groups that will participate in The International Folk Festival “Festivalul Inimilor”.

Evening activity: Watching the performances from The International Folk Festival “Festivalul Inimilor” (folk groups from 10 countries and more than 20 professional and village folk groups from Romania will take part)

Post festival excursions to explore the beauty, rich history, and living traditions of Transylvania

Liz & Nick



Romany - Gypsy Dance

Learn a choreography

3 weeks starting Monday 8th May 13.15 - 14.45. Cost £25.

Further information from 03000 41 22 22.

To be held at Tunbridge Wells Adult Education Centre, Monson Road, Tunbridge Wells.

The Centre is 5 - 10 minutes' walk from the station.

Buses from various places, including Brighton and Bromley, stop 2 - 5 minutes from the Centre.

Arlene Hansell



Eastbourne : Scandinavian Dance

– some extra information

In addition to the main “International” programme there are a few workshops aimed at both the English and International dancers. The Scandinavian workshops will be taught by Barbara Kelly with music by Bowjolie - seen at the Scandi and French afternoon dance at Dance Around the World. I know one of the people playing in the band for the Scandinavian workshops, and thought some extra information might be useful. They describe their dances as “group dances” - some are in pairs, but will not involve long periods of close holds and continuous turning. Their choice of dances will be of a type similar to the simpler social dances known to the SIFD for many years, and taught at summer school by Henning Christiansen. Some may be known to SIFD members, but a good portion will be new to us. They will include both dances for pairs, and for larger sets, from all the Scandinavian countries. The band “Bowjolie” may also be offering music workshops.

Jeanette Hull



The monthly piece from the Wilf Horrocks' Collection

See page 14 for **Bagi Lánytanc** - for which there was no information forthcoming - better luck next time.

Next month Wilf's music for **La Danza** from Italy. I am indebted to Iris Birch for teaching me it recently to enable BRIDE to include it in this year's displays along with other Italian dances.

Ed.



Tants Tants Tants! 2017

Klezmer, Jewish and Israeli Dance 6-11 August
SOAS, Russell Square, London

Yiddish dance leader, Guy Schalom. No experience is necessary, just an interest in Klezmer music and dance. We will cover circle, line, couple and square dances from Jewish Eastern European and beyond.

Cost:

£200 Full price (£175 if paid before 1 June)

£150 Students (current) and Seniors (65+)

Contact us if you wish to apply for a scholarship to enable your attendance or if you have any questions you would like to ask.



Klezfest 2017

Learn Klezmer. 6-11 August SOAS, Russell Square, London

Join our music school and learn klezmer this summer at KlezFest 2017.

- Hands-on tutoring from world leading experts.
- Traditional klezmer; history, melodies, ornamentation, dance and accompaniment
- Play music in ensembles and delve into improvisational techniques
- Interpret scores, jam and perform to the public.

We are delighted to announce that this years faculty will be led by master Klezmer clarinetist Ros Hawley who will be supported by last year's faculty leader Klezmer violinist Ilana Cravitz and She'koyokh's clarinetist Susi Evans. We are pleased to announce that Berlin's Christian Dawid (Clarinet), Sanne Moricke (accordion) are joining us, with a wealth of exciting international and UK teaching talent to be announced soon.

Please keep yourself updated by checking the JMI website. Minimum instrumental proficiency: Grade 5 or equivalent. No klezmer experience necessary. All are welcome.



Letters:

This is an off-the-cuff reply to Dawn Wakefield's enquiry in the February News.

She comments that "sometimes computers do let you down". They do indeed, but so can any other device. I have no statistics on the relative failure rates, but at least with a computer a re-boot will often get you back in business.

At the Central London Group we have for some time used a small ghetto blaster, usually connected to an iPod and occasionally for playing a CD. A little while ago something on the ghetto blaster went wrong (the CD player section if I remember correctly) so it went off for investigation. The next week I took a surplus pair of computer speakers and a borrowed ghetto blaster. The former worked fine for a short time then cut out. I suspected a poor connection on the input lead, so took them home and changed the lead. The next week, again they worked briefly and then again they cut out. I took them home again, found the real fault and fixed it.

The original ghetto blaster is with Dave Wedd for repair. When it comes back my speakers can remain available as a backup. Having a backup player of some sort is the ideal, though not always practicable. But before any such devices ever existed there have always been times when people wished to dance but there was no musician. The solution was mouth music / puirt a beul / tralling / whatever-it's-called-in-other-languages. Perhaps we should all develop our skill in that ancient tradition.

Richard Mellish





Dear Janet

With reference to the letter from Dawn Wakefield regarding the replacement of failing CD players.

I have had similar problems since I have a collection of CD's going back to the 1980's. The collection consists of folk and contemporary music. When my original CD player started to fail and needed replacing I found that the local Currys/PC World store was too up market to supply replacement CD players. But I was able to get a Goodmans mini HiFi system from the Tesco supermarket in Orpington high street. This has a CD player and digital radio unit with two separate speakers. I also obtained a portable radio with CD player made by Alba from the local Argos store. Argos stock several different types, of varying prices. One other high street retailer stocking CD players is Robert Dyas. The output power of all these units may be a little low for a hall, and a separate speaker and amplifier may be needed.

I had a similar problem with my tape cassette collection. I had a quantity of cassettes of folk music that were purchased from folk festivals during the period 1980 to 1995. My original cassette player having failed, I found some replacement cassette players in Robert Dyas and Argos. These cassette players are very basic; they do not have Dolby or CROZ options. I also bought a second hand cassette tape dubbing unit made by Denon from the local Cash Converters store in Orpington High Street. It is of 1990 vintage but plays my old tapes extremely well. It cost me only £25.00. So consider browsing in second hand shops for old players.

I am now able to enjoy listening to music that I bought from the folk festivals in the 1980's.

Alan Picot



Bagi Lánytanc

(Girl's dance of Bag)

Hungarian

Ax2 Andante

7
11
17
23
37
39
45
51
57

D A7 D (Em) A Em
A7 D A7
D E7 A A D A
D A D E7 A
Cx1 Adagio
Am E Am G E7
a little faster
Am G Am E7 Am E7 Am
Dx2 Allegretto
A D A D E7
A E7 A E7 D A
Ex2 Normal Speed
Am Em Dm G Am
Am Em Am

Finish by repeating Ex2 adagio
to begin and speeding up slightly
to make a suitable finish

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

see page 10

SIFD Committee

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WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- S.I **Tuesday 21st. AN EVENING WITH DALE HYDE** Balkan Dance
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 **Thursday 23rd DALE HYDE** Nutbrook I. F. D. G
- S.I **Saturday 25th DALE HYDE** Nutbrook I. F. D. G. Ticket prices - £20
for all day, £12 for day only, £5 buffet only, £7 Dance only. (buffet needs
to be booked prior to March 16th) – www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk or
gill.morral@ntlworld.com
- S.I **Sunday 26th BALKAN DANCE DAY WITH MAGGIE O'REGAN**
near Ipswich. 11am-5pm at Witnesham Village Hall. £10. Contact: Sally
Fletcher, 01473 252824, fletcherism@aol.com

Sunday 26th DANCE WORKSHOP WITH DALE HYDE at Calver
Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR 11-16.30. Dances from the
Balkans and a selection from Chile, Mexico, Argentina and Canada. Light
refreshments provided. Cost £11. Book your place with Greg Boyd on
07810 181273 or gregboyd99@aol.com



*All material for the April issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor
in writing by 18th March.*

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.*