

Society for International Folk Dancing

April 2017



SIFD News

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

The delightful photo on the front cover was taken at the recent Oxford Balkansko Oro party. This month's motif comes from a Polish yoghurt top.

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There is too much unhappy news in this issue; **Roy Foster**, of Zivko Firfov, passed away peacefully last month; also **Henry Lee** (pictured below; **Nenad Bićanić** also (page 6). There are also letters about the passing of **Peggy Haycock**, and **Roy** and **Cynthia Lewis**.

Ed.

Jill Bransby has sent a photo of Henry dancing 'Tarantella 'Fasola' with the Rainmakers in March 1995. He died earlier this month.



Paylak Sarkissian

Paylak Sarkissian, former artistic director of the Armenian State Song and Dance Ensemble, will be in England between 5th and 12th November 2017. He is a specialist in the lyrical dance style and we know some of his dances – Hovivi Yerke, Margrit, Erzroomi Shoror. If any groups want to take advantage of his visit and have him at their session, contact Dalila. (contact details - page 15)

Dalila Heath

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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. Information: 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 12: INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP WITH JANET DOUGLAS** at Worthing Dance International, Barrington Road, Goring. BN12 4EA (opp. Leisure Centre. 7.15 - 9.45pm £3.50 incl. tea/coffee & biscuits.
- 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 **Jun. 10: BALKANPLUS** MCs: Graham Crowder & Jane Mackenzie
- 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 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

Ontario Folk Dance Camp

Anne Leach will be teaching International dances at this year's Camp - May 19-22 - Details: Sheryl Demetro, 121 Sexton Cres, Toronto, Ontario, M2H 2L7. 416-493-3815 or edemetn625@rogers.com



Treats in Bromley

Having carelessly suffered a heart attack in December, I had to postpone my return to teaching my classes. I decided to call in a SIFD teacher to support me and teach at the first classes and arranged for Frank Dowling to come and remind us of dances we do that have originated with him and maybe introduce some new dances.

He taught Dragaicuta, which I learned from him at Swansea in 1981 and gave us a wealth of background information about the origin of the dance. We also revised Skopski sa sa which Frank and I learned from Paul Mulders in Whitby, and learned the Pogonisios/Giatros that Dimmitris taught at Swansea. Several other dances were revised or taught and the class members of Bromley International and Bromley U3A voted the visit a great success.

One member of Bromley International brought in a flier about a Bulgarian dance class on Saturday afternoons in [can you believe it?] Bromley Library. It is a group of Bulgarians led by a qualified teacher Daniela. They do basic dances from the Internet using a laptop and a projection screen so that there is a performance to watch if you are not dancing. I recognised a lot of the music and dances – Gankino, Elena Mome etc. but sometimes the names on screen were different from those we have learned. There were mostly young Bulgarians, very little English spoken or understood. I can supply more details to anyone interested.

I can recommend both Frank's teaching and the Bulgarian Group "From the Spring", as they have been much enjoyed in Bromley.

Fiona Howarth



Professor Nenad Bićanić

It was with great sadness that I learned of the death of our Croatian teacher Nenad Bićanić. Nenad taught 2 Summer schools for the SIFD, one in Swansea, and one in Edinburgh, and several Day courses. His classes were always lively and enjoyable, and he had a huge sense of fun. I remember the translation of one of our action songs, “in a cottage in a wood” into SerboCroat, as it was at the time, to be sung at our evening sing-alongs.

He extended our knowledge of the dances of other regions of the former Yugoslavia too, as at that time the country had not split. He was a great stylist, in everything.

In 2012, Nenad came to Manchester/Calver to give one of the week-end courses which Julie Korth and I started some years ago, and which Mary O’ Mahony was also organising. He was delighted to see myself and Janice (Wrench, of Živko Firfov) there, and wearing costume. He saw that there was tremendous enthusiasm in this area for the dancing. 3 years ago, Nenad called me and asked to meet me in Bakewell to discuss a project with which he was involved. Knowing that I had a group here, an”ad contact with other folk dancers, he wanted us to dance, in costume if possible, at an important Croatian event near my home here in the Peak Disitrc.

On entering the EU, Croatia decided to give a gift to the UK, and Nenad was influential in the choice of an Istrian Kažun for this gift. The Kažun is a shepherd’s hut, built with the skill of drystone walling. This is the link between this area and Istria, shepherding, and drystone walling. Skilled workmen came over from Istria to construct the hut, out of our local stone, on one of the Peak District Trails near here. Nenad was in charge of the project.

The day of the presentation was fine and warm. In the morning, Nenad held a rehearsal of our dance at the centre where Janet King has her weekly U3A dance group. He taught us all Letovanić, and in the afternoon we performed it in the presence of the Croatian Ambassador. The Peak District was at its most beautiful that day, and we performed to live music provided by the orchestra of lady Manners School. Nenad was revered in his own field of Civil Engineering, and held several professorships, but on the Anniversary of the presentation he contacted me to say he was as proud of this project as of anything else he had done in his life. If you are interested, You can try this link:

www.wessex.ac.uk/news/generalnews/939-obituary-nenad-bicanic

and read about his achievements, then Google Istrian Kažun, or Peak

District and you can see pictures of it, and interviews with Nenad himself. I am proud to have known him and I am sad that we have lost him, but at least we have a lasting Memorial here.

Marina Wolstenholme

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Nenad Bićanić



Recently I heard the very sad news that my old teacher and friend Nenad Bicanic had passed away. Older SIFD members will remember him from the 1977 Edinburgh Summer School where he and his delightful wife Jasna first taught Croatian folk dances. Some years later they also taught day courses in London. Whilst lecturing at Swansea University both he and Jasna would visit the social evenings of the summer schools joining in enthusiastically with all the dances.

As students in Zagreb both Nenad and Jasna danced with one of the best student groups there and Nenad kept up his association with the group long after, helping to organise a reunion group for ex members. I met him in Zagreb more than 40 years ago shortly after they had returned from living in the Netherlands. What immediately struck me was their friendliness and hospitality. Even though they had never met me before nothing was too much trouble for them despite being both very busy. They just seemed delighted that someone was interested in their heritage. On subsequent visits I also met the group that Nenad directed for several years and brought to England to compete in the (now sadly defunct) Teesside International Eisteddfod where they won first prize in the Adult Folk Dance section. Later we met again in Switzerland when we invited him to teach there.

He was and remained a very active man despite suffering poor health in later years. Even after retiring from his very prestigious position of Emeritus Professor at Glasgow University where he held the Regius Chair of civil engineering he kept on going, dividing his time between Oxford and Croatia where he still lectured part time at Rijeka University. I shall certainly miss being able to dance with him again. Nenad was a truly fine man, a brilliant civil engineer who was loved and respected by his colleagues and students and I am sure that the same can be said for all folk dancers who had the pleasure of dancing with him.

Frank Dowling

Cynthia and Roy Lewis

I am sure older members of the Society will remember Cynthia and Roy Lewis. Roy died a few years ago, and Cynthia died just recently, after a long illness. Both enjoyed the international dancing and had been members of Janet Woolbar's class. They were familiar figures at Dunford and Halsway Manor weekends, and faithfully attended for many years the dances held at Cecil Sharp House. Cynthia was a very kind and passionate individual and I personally feel I have lost a true and genuine friend.

Irene Keyworth 0208 592 4427

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On moving to Wales in 1970 I put out a notice in the 'NEWS' inviting members to come and visit us and enjoy some dancing whilst here. We repeated the invite again in 1983 when we moved to Pembrokeshire. Cynthia and Roy were the first to come and came many times bringing their Jack Russell dog with them.



We walked the coast path, we sat on the beach, we paddled and, of course, we danced. Cynthia and Roy always came to our P.I.F.D meetings and even took part in demonstrations wearing our Italian costumes. It was great fun. For awhile we met up each year until health made it difficult for all of us to travel. Those were the days. I don't know when they joined S.I.F.D. but it was certainly a long time ago.

Sue Clark

Peggy Haycock

It is with deep sorrow that I have to tell you that Peggy passed away last Tuesday 28th February - coincidentally on our 57th Wedding Anniversary! Peggy joined the Harrow Green Folk Dance Group in 1957 and from then on was a familiar figure anywhere where there was folk dancing. As you will understand this has come as a great shock to me - she had been particularly unwell since Christmas and spent some time in Hospital. I was happy that at the end she was back here with me and that I was sitting holding her hand at the end.

I am not very well myself and am finding things rather difficult - but if you would like to call me on 01684 574461 (bearing in mind that it can take me same time to get to the telephone), I would be pleased to hear from you.

Roy Haycock aka Oscar



Belco Stanev – Coming to Calver

World renowned and much loved Bulgarian Folk Dance Specialist

We had a lot of fun with Belco in April.

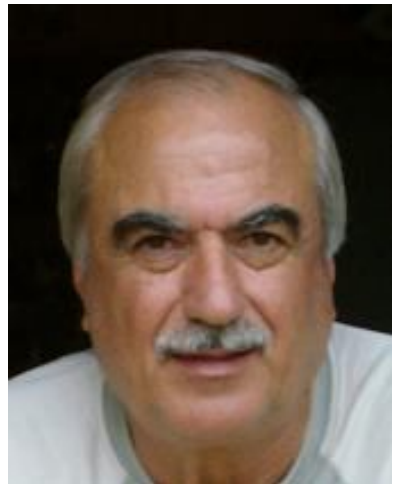
I am pleased to say that I have fixed a date for him to come back next year; and this time it is residential so you will have more chance to socialise with him too.

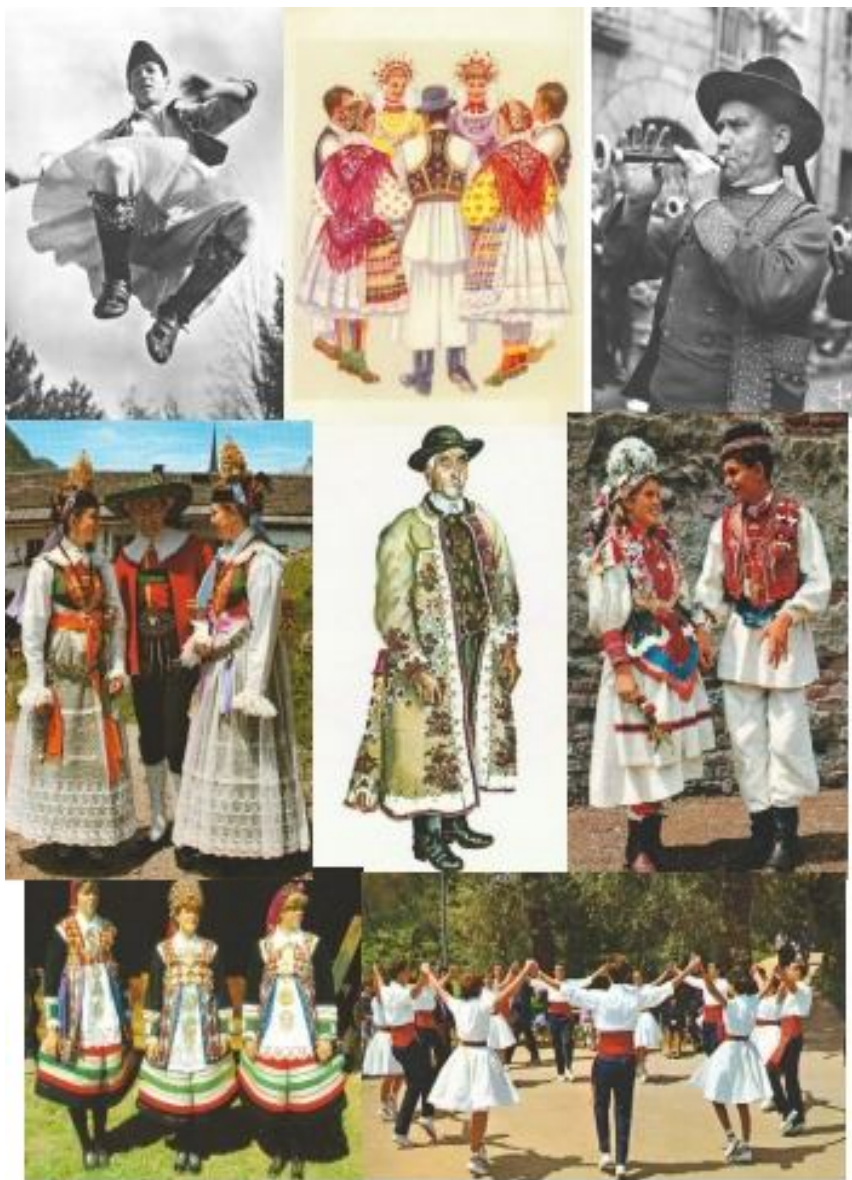
Please put this date in your 2017 diary. (There will be more information to follow).

Friday 10th - Sunday 12th November
2017 Bulgarian folk dancing with Belco Stanev

Venue; Cliff College, Calver, Derbyshire

Cathy Meunier





COSTUME POSTCARDS

are so collectible: and we have hundreds which have all got to go. If you can give them a good home please contact Simon : sguest@theiet.org or 01992 577065

Balkanplus

The April Balkanplus will be held on the 8th April at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.
MCs will be The Oxford Group. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton



Bagi Tanc - Nép dalok

- 1 Pipi-piros a muskátli
Köril csirkés a levele
Miert nincsen minden lánynak
Igaz szivd szeretője
Mert a legényekre kacsint a menyecske
Azért nincsen lánynak
Igaz szivd szeretője.
- 2 Kiesett a kiesett a varrott kendő a kezemből
Kitagadott, kitagadott a szeretöm a szivdből
Ha kitagadott is mégis ő az árva
Találok dn szép szeretöt piros Bagnak falujában.
- A Az aszödi kaszárnya bádoga teteje
De sok barna kislánynak benne a kedvese
Lám az enyém nincs benne itt ül az ölemben
Páros csókot asztoget
Kacsingat a szemembe.
- B Falu végén van egy ház sárgára van meszelve
Piros paradicsommal van körül ültetve
Piros a paradicsor sárga a virága
Ha megcsókol a babár hozzám ragad a szája.
- 3 Befagyott a Galga vize nem lehet halászni
Igy hát kedves kisangyalom rád fogok vigyázni
Ne költsd el az összes pénzed
Gyeván kocsmájában
Inkább vegyél poszté szoknyát karcsü derekamra.

(The diacritics may not be accurate. **Ed.**)

Bag-i Leanitánć A dance for four couples.

MUSIC 'A' (Twice)

- 1 Starting on the right foot, the girls enter in single file, with hands on hips, walking with steps which sweep slightly across the line of direction, keeping the body over the line. 24 steps, turning to face to their left, in line, on the last 4 steps.
- 2 All link right arms on the first beat, sway to the right & left for 6 counts. 6 steps forward, sweeping the feet as in 1.
With csardas steps..2 R, 1 L; x 4, moving forward and keeping the line straight.

MUSIC 'B' (Twice)

3. Remain linked and take 9 running steps backwards to make the line a semi-circle.
All the dancers make quick little swivel steps on the spot, while the end dancers run to meet each other, take a shoulder hold, turn each other with running steps, run to their own place, and turn on the spot.
4. All running, increase the depth of the semi-circle and the end dancers lead their own half of the line (all still linked), through an arch made by the central pair, then through each arch in turn in their own half of the line, turning themselves under and joining the semi-circle into a circle at the end, everyone's hands held high.

MUSIC 'C' (Once)

5. The circle moves anti-clockwise with this sequence of steps....; step right, cross left foot over right foot and lower arms, step right then behind with left foot making a small dip. 8 times, then on bar 9, keeping the hands low after the initial lowering on bar 1, and now slightly quickening, make this pattern...
2 csardas to the right, slightly out of the circle,
2 csardas to the left, slightly out of the circle,
2 csardas to the right, facing into the circle,
2 csardas to the left, facing into the circle,
4-step run into the circle... R,L,R, point left foot, Repeat backwards, Repeat forwards into the circle then lift right arm high, over the girl at the right, to hold hands behind each other, right over left. This reduces the size of the circle.

MUSIC 'D' (Twice)

6. Two-step csardas to right and left, 3 times. The movements to the right being bigger than those to the left.


continued..>

One csardas - to the right, step right then sway to right and left, then holding right arm high, run round in a small circle to own right, and relink into the circle.

7. The circle runs to the left gathering momentum. On the 7th bar take shoulder-hold in pairs, running round in a small circle, then on bar 10-12, relink into the circle and continue to run to the left. stop.

MUSIC 'E' (Twice, then last 6 bars slowly).

8. Lippentoś...

Quick steps, step to the right, close left to right, then with feet a little apart, bend the knees  This dip is lippentoś. Make this step in this sequence...

One-step csardas right, lippentoś, repeat to the left. 3 patterns. Then make the csardas with a double lippentoś, right and left x 2.

9. 12 rida steps to the left, then run to the left, opening the circle into a straight line on bars 9-12, then make a sharp stop.

10. Slowly and lyrically.

6 steps forward as in figure 1, starting on right foot and gently waving the right arm.

4 steps to turn on own, to the right with both arms high and wide, then as the dancers reform the line, they take hands, holding high, slightly quickening, and step backwards on right then left foot, then make 3 steps forward on right, left, right, then close feet together, lower arms, and bow on the last beat.



These notes were either from Sybil Chapman or Margery Latham. It is not a dance you can learn from notes unless you have a fair idea of what it's like.

Janet Woolbar



Dear Janet,

re. the mention of the '**Girls' dance from Bag'** in the Feb. issue. I'm afraid this is a bit late but it's taken me a while to recover from the mid-January session in hospital (heart attack!).

Just for interest I'm enclosing the words of the songs (see page 11) though I doubt there are many to get their tongues round them. It took me a 4 week summer course at Debrecca University to sort out "matching vowels" as well as many other problems!!

Sybil Chapman

♩ = 66

La Danza

(Version 1)

Italy

Slowly

The score for 'La Danza (Version 1)' is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a tempo marking 'Slowly' and includes a first ending ('Fig. 1'). The second system includes a 'Faster on repeat' marking and a second ending ('Fig. 2'). The third system concludes the piece. Chord symbols are placed below the notes: A7, D, G, A, D, A, D, G, A7, D, D, B, Em, A7, D, D, A7, D.

La Danza

(version 2)

Italy

Very Slow

The score for 'La Danza (version 2)' is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of three systems of staves. The first system has a tempo marking 'Very Slow' and includes a first ending. The second system includes a 'Faster on repeat' marking and a second ending. The third system concludes the piece. Chord symbols are placed below the notes: A, D, G, A, D, B, A, D, D, G, A, D, B7, Em, A, D, D, A7, D.

* Last 4 bars are played much faster and very lively

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

La Danza is a fairly simple dance; couples process and turn in a courtly fashion reverting to peasantry for the last 4 bars; it is featured in the 50th Anniversary CD and booklet.

A piece of Wilf's music, **Bourrée des Dindes**, will be featured in the May issue.

Does anyone know anything about it?

I would really like to learn more about it - because it looks easy enough for me to play on the accordion!

Ed.

Eastbourne International Folk Festival

28th April - 1st May 2017

This year's line-up for the International side of the Festival features Marius & Maria Ursu presenting a selecting of Romanian dances.

This will be their first visit to the Eastbourne Festival.

Esther Willems, from The Netherlands, returns again to the festival to present dances primarily from Bulgaria. She will be accompanied by the band "Ramishkata" who will will play for her sessions as well as providing live music selections during the evenings.

We will be joined by the London Latvian group who will present a Latvian dance workshop and entertain us in a Meet-the-team session. For newcomers to the International dance scene, Jill Bransby will present two sessions to teach some easy International dances and on Sunday Brian Dowsett offers a session to review a selection of dances that he will include during the Balkan Party in the evening.

All of this, plus much more, including Zweifachers, Bollywood and Scandinavian will be available for your enjoyment! For a full list please see the EIFF website.

There is still room on our steward team for more volunteers and this can be arranged to fit your dance preferences. Please contact Maureen (see below) if you are able to help.

You can reserve tickets on-line at the "Tickets" section of the Festival website: eiff.org.uk. Alternatively, call Maureen at the Festival box office on 01823 401271.

Ron & Jean Wilks



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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

WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I **Apr.1-2: OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO - WEEKEND** with Ventzi Sotirov. Workshops 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. full weekend: £45. Thursday 6th April 7:-10:00 £7. Tickets are limited so 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 at Calver Village Hall, Calver S32 3XR 10.30-16.30. 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 - 10.30-4.30pm at Primrose Hill Comm. Centre (upper hall) 29 Hopkinsons Place (off Fitzroy Rd), London NW1 8TN £25 Cheques payable to Balkanplus 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** see page 11
- S.I **Apr. 9: GREEK FOLK DANCE W/SHOP** Dimitris Triandafyllidis at St Swithun's Church Hall, Grovelands Rd. Purley, Surrey, CR8 4LB (just off the A23) 10:30-4:30. £30 incl. refreshments. Cheques: to 'Helios', 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 see page 15



All material for the May issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 18th April. Events covered by SIFD insurance are marked S.I.