

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



May 2017

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



It was the slimmest edition to date!
The pages this month numbered eight!

Were there fillings for gaps?
Cartoons, pictures perhaps?

I can tell you all about BRIDE
You will see just how much I have tried.

I'll dig out old stuff
That should be enough

So members and groups please take note,
It is your turn to keep us afloat

This month (and the next)
Please, please send me some text.

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My picture of a Bolivian dancer on the front cover, swinging a rattle as she dances, needs bright colours for colouring in; and below my effort regarding Lily's suggestion (page 10).

Ed.

Bourée des Dindes



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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 **Jul. 8: BALKANPLUS** - the annual Balkanplus dance request evening. Requests to MCs Ron & Jean Wilks for inclusion in the evening.
- 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. 'LAST CHANCE TO BOOK!'
- 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 **Sep.23-24 BULGARIAN WORKSHOP WITH ILIANA & TODOR** Iliana Bozhanova & Todor Yankov at St Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton Manchester, M21 0XJ. cost: Sat.11am-9.30pm - £25 (£23). Sun.10-30-4-30. £20 (£18) Weekend price £40 (£35) Prices in brackets for SIFD members. Full details from Mary O'Mahony 0161 881 0955 or maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk
- 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

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*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.*



Balkanplus

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 13th May at Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.
MC will be Jane Goode. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton



Bognor Regis International Dance Ensemble

aka BRIDE; we meet on Mondays and attempt dances from all over the world. Usually in the winter term we dance oldies, requests and exotic dances for our own enjoyment, and, I try to slip in some new dances I may have acquired on one course or another to see if they take.

In the spring term we decide which country or countries we want to concentrate on for the coming months. This year we're working on dances from Portugal, Spain and Italy: Vira das Cavacas, Mal Hao, Senhor da Serra from Portugal, Makil Ttiki and Fandango da Pollenca from Spain. Sciarazula Marazula, La Danza, Neapolitan Tarantella and Arrosciada from Italy. Our costumes this year will be Italian (and Italianish), Portugueseish and Spanish (and Spanishish).

During the summer we usually have opportunities to demonstrate our dances to the public at local events. The Southdowns Folk Festival takes place in September and on Saturday we dance at different spots around the town along with Morris sides and Cloggers. This year I am leading a workshop "Around the World in 80 Minutes" with the assistance of my group. We will also join forces with my local English Country Dance Club on Sunday where we are accompanied by the Town Crier.

Janet Douglas

Rivieradance! 2018

Wednesday 7th – Monday 12th February in Torquay.

Once again we have the privilege of dancing with world class folk dance teachers at Rivieradance! 2018. You won't want to miss them!

Steve Kotansky (*below*) is an iconic name that many folk dancers will have heard of, but most of us in the UK will never have had the privilege of learning from him.



His enthusiasm is infectious, and he has an amazing wealth of knowledge about all the material that he brings. An added bonus is his wife Susan Kotansky who co-teaches with him and is herself a recognised dance teacher and researcher. Steve and Susy will be teaching dances from the southern Balkans.

Vincent Parodi (*right*) we already know and love. He is a beautiful dancer – it is a treat just to watch him, and he has proved to be a gem of a teacher, a delightful, gentle and generous person, bringing the best of Israeli dancing to us.



Maya and Dave will be running the music-making workshops. This is Maya's 5th year at Rivieradance. Every year she manages to delight musicians of all levels with her expertly run workshops, and enable them to make a wonderful sound together. Non-residential instrumentalists are welcome to join the weekend course. Dave came for the first time in 2017 and was an instant hit with his drumming workshops for aspiring drummers. Another highlight is Heli's singing workshops, to which everyone is welcome. There is plenty to see and do in the area and walks will be arranged so you can enjoy south Devon's stunning coastal scenery and countryside.

Another treat is the delightful family-owned Livermead House Hotel on the sea front with its large sprung-floor ballroom and award winning chef. We look forward to plenty of music, dancing, delicious food and much more!

The holiday is 5 night's full board in comfortable en-suite accommodation, arriving on Wednesday and leaving on Monday after breakfast. There are various options for the dance course. Prices from: £405 (dancers); £305 (non-dancers).

For full details and a booking form contact Cathy Meunier email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com tel 017687 73117 website: www.balkanfolkdance.org or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX.

Cathy Meunier



Henry Lee (28.12.28 - 19.2.17)

Henry joined the Rainmakers International Folk Dancing Group in September 1976 he, and his wife Betty, became loyal and enthusiastic members. Henry quickly threw himself into learning a variety of dances from many countries, helping at jumble sales to raise money, taking part in demonstrations and days of dance, and keeping a record of all the dances that we learned over the years. His intellectual curiosity covered both folk culture and the wider world.

Henry seemed to have been born to wear a folk costume whether it was a Dutch, German, Polish, Sicilian, Ukrainian, Israeli or Mexican. With typical enthusiasm, he and Betty went to Holland to buy material, hats and clogs for our Dutch costumes. He seemed to bring his own idiosyncratic style and mischievous grin to add to the joy of any occasion. I remember when we were dancing at a Hitchin Gathering he had to assist my jump at the end of a dance. This he did with enthusiasm, but unfortunately he trod on my skirt at the same time. As he lifted me, my skirt was ripped from my waist! I still remember his look of horror.

His final display appearance was on 29 June, 2012, wearing a Mexican costume at the Hitchin Town Hall at the last Unicorn Ceilidh held there. We were all delighted that he and Betty were able to attend The Rainmakers 40th Anniversary Celebration on September 10th, 2016.

We will miss his sense of fun, his enthusiasm, his determination and his loyalty to the group.

Jill Bransby

Flamenco

Just over a hundred years ago Flamenco was still a part of normal Andalusian village life and flourished in its natural surroundings. The time soon came, however, when the songs and dances of the region and the art of the Andalusian gypsies began to attract money to the pockets of these poor people who had previously performed merely for their own pleasure. The cantaors, the bailaors and the guitarists were hired by cafes anxious to provide entertainment for their guests. At this time, the independent gypsies joined with the Andalusians, and the cafe chantant, as it was called, spread outside the confines of Andalusia into distant parts of Spain. The most famous of these cafe chantants were, however, situated in the Andalusian towns of Seville and Malaga. The cafe chantant today no longer exists, and the Flamenco tradition is now mostly perpetuated in the professional theatre. It is still possible to see the gypsies dance in the Sacromonte caves at Granada and a number of small taverns such as El Refugio in Malaga present Flamenco dancing and singing for an almost exclusively Spanish clientele, which is probably the best guarantee of authenticity.

In the theatre and particularly with the large Spanish ballet companies such as those which have become so popular in this country, it is usual for two or more guitarists to play together. This is chiefly because the physical limitation of the guitar, as far as volume is concerned, demands it when an attempt is made to broaden the intimate character of Flamenco and interpret it to a larger audience. When folk art broadens its appeal and is put on stage, the rough edges are smoothed away until it reaches a form capable of being understood by people of quite different cultural traditions.

Normally the Flamenco guitarist improvises on a number of set forms. This enables him to demonstrate his skill, power of invention and spontaneity without losing that sense of shape and balance which is so essential to any form of art. Technically, the difficulties facing the guitarist when improvising Flamenco are very great; abrupt changes of rhythm are matched by equally abrupt changes of technique; rasqueado (broadly, strumming) is interspersed with scale passages of great velocity and tremolo with rapid chord passages. One may perhaps feel that the Flamenco guitarist puts more of himself into his playing than does any other instrumentalist.

Cante Flamenco, for which the guitar often provides the accompaniment, is composed of two different types of song - cante jondo and cante chico. Canto jondo, or "deep" song as it is literally translated, deals with the fundamental and more serious side of life and consists mostly of such forms as soleares, serranas, siguiriyas and martinetes. Cante chico, or pequeno as it is sometimes called, deals with the joyous and happy aspects of life and consists mostly of such forms as alegrías, bulerías, fandangos and tangos.

Acknowledgement to Anthony Morris and the Decca Record Co. Ltd.

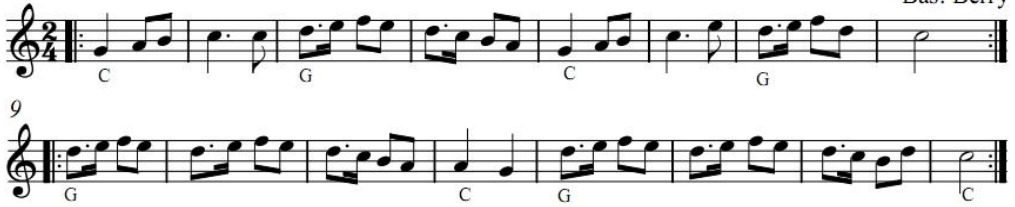


The above article appeared in the August 1975 SIFD News. The photo below is Gigi (my grand-daughter) in her Andalusian costume. **Ed.**



Bourrée Des Dindes

France
Bas. Berry



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Dear Janet,

I think the **Bourrée des Dindes** (Bourrée for Turkeys) cries out for a suitable cartoon to accompany it in the News but unfortunately I can't draw!

But maybe it was an April Fool's joke? As editor I did on occasion include an April Fool ploy in that month. But it might have been more appropriate to call it Bourrée des Poissons as for the French an April fool is un poisson d'avril - April fish! And they pin a paper cut-out fish on the backs of unsuspecting victims.

Lily Avery



I have researched **Bourrée des Dindes** on Youtube and apparently it is a circle dance for an even number of people.

Facing centre 4 bourrée steps in a sort of diamond, times 4. Then 2 bourrée steps facing partner nearest hand held high - other hand low; then 2 bourrée steps facing neighbour hand held high - other low- dancing backwards when required, times 2.

There was another video of children dancing it slightly differently (but not very well - they looked more like turkeys really). They dance in a line, then a circle, finishing in a line again.



Next month - Wilf's music for a dance called **Manchester**; I am intrigued - as it is a German dance! Does anybody know anything about it? **Ed.**



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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- S.I Fri. 28th - **Mon. 1st: SIFD WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor, North Somerset, with Janet Woolbar & Stella Wentworth. Contact Robin & Judy Morris - 01564773482 - 07966785172 or robinnimbo@aol.com
- Fri. 28th - **Mon. 1st: EASTBOURNE FESTIVAL**
- S.I **Fri. 5th - Mon. 8th 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 **Friday 12th 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 **Friday 12th INT. 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 **Saturday 13th: BALKANPLUS** see page 5



All material for the June issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 18th May.