

*The monthly newsletter of the Society for International Folk Dancing*



***SIFD NEWS***

***August 2017***

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Registered Charity Number 284509

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

The front cover picture of a Maltese peasant woman was contributed by Lily Avery; I hope the detail of the pleated skirt is not lost in the process of publication.

Last month I drew on a letter from Doreen P. Gordon. She has since asked me to clarify something resulting from an omission of mine. It was not “with Rudolf Laban” but “a group travelling around and seeking people to join their group, based on the writings and life of Rudolf Laban”. This misunderstanding arose because I passed on bits from a private letter.

Therein lies the problem - sometimes a tricky editing job can be sorting private from public letters. If the letter states “not for publication” then I will know what not to do!

But do please write to me, especially with a letter “for the News”, or indeed other material that might interest other dancers.

**Ed.**



## **Picnic in the Park 13<sup>th</sup> August**

Some of us from the Cheam class will be meeting near the Manor House in Nonsuch Park on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August to enjoy an afternoon of dancing. Come along with your dance shoes and sandwiches and join us. Toilets are available, and there is a small café for tea or ice creams. Any costume would make it colourful, but not essential, just come and have fun.

### **Nonsuch Park KT17**

Dancing 3pm - 4.30pm.

Hope to see you there

(weather permitting)

**Helen Ezra**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Sep. 3: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** at the Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London
- S.I **Sep. 9: SIFD AGM** at 5pm in Storrow at Cecil Sharp House, London NW1 7AY
- S.I **Sep. 9: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Maggie O'Regan
- 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 Sun. £25 Weekend package £60 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](mailto:maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk)
- Sep. 30: NUTBROOK INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP** Chrisandra Harris with a selection of dances from Greece, Turkey, Armenia and central Asia. Grangewood Methodist Church, Wollaton Notts. [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)
- Oct 13-16: 3 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING** with walking, Fri-Mon, led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing morning & evening. 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader at HF Holidays, The Peveril of the Peak, Dovedale, Derbyshire DE6 2AW. Details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Oct. 14: BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be Susie Kelleher & Anne Maddocks

- 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](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk)) or phone 0797-464-9311
- S.I **Oct. 20: RAINMAKERS 41<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY DANCE** 8pm-11pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PQ. £8.00. Please bring food to share. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).
- S.I **Oct. 28-29: DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House non-stop performances and workshops.
- S.I **Feb.7-12: RIVIERADANCE! 2018** Residential Balkan & Israeli folk dance holiday with Steve Kotansky (dances from the southern Balkans) & Vincent Parodi (Israeli folk dances). Plus: singing with Heli, music-making with Maya, drumming with Dave, walking and sight-seeing. 5 nights full board in comfortable ensuite hotel accommodation, award winning chef, Torquay, English Riviera. Dance course options. Prices from £405 (dancers); £305 (non-dancers). For details & booking form 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
- Mar.16-19: 2018 3 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING** with walking, Fri-Mon. led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing morning & evening. 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader at HF Holidays, Newfield Hall, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire, BD23 4AA.Details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649



*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.*



*The photograph above and the one opposite were taken by  
Judith Payling in 1986  
at the Billingham International Folklore Festival.*



*The Dancers on both pages are from the Kang Sun-Young group from Korea.*

## Cambridge International Club

We are sorry to announce that International Folk Dancing at Cambridge International Club will cease with a final dance on Monday 25th September.

In 1954 some members of Cambridge International Club decided to start a Folk Dance group (as an alternative to Ballroom Dancing and jiving to pop music). The group met at the Friends' Meeting House, where my mother was warden, and I remember as a young teenager going to sleep listening to exotic folk dance music on a Monday night. It always ended with Mayim Mayim which has been our traditional last dance of the evening ever since.

By the time I joined the group, learning the dances to the familiar tunes, in 1958 the numbers attending had exceeded the capacity of the Meeting House hall and the group had moved to a larger hall at St. Columba's Church where we have met ever since. Over the next decades the group flourished with attendances of 40, or more, young people about half of whom were from overseas (mainly, but by no means all, from Language Schools). For a period we even ran a second evening on Wednesdays. We ran Folk Dance evenings at several Language Schools and even, for a time, had a display team (because of the variety of dances we did deciding on suitable costumes was a problem!).

From about 1990 numbers started to decline, particularly of younger dancers, until we are now reduced to a core group of only 5 British geriatrics. Gone are the days when we thought the teacher was old when he celebrated his 30th birthday, it's some time since we had any dancers under 30!

So we have decided to throw in the sponge. We hope any past members, and indeed any SIFD members, will join us on 25 September to make our last dance go with a swing. (for info. Email [Patrick.schicker@btinternet.com](mailto:Patrick.schicker@btinternet.com))

**Pat Schicker**

PS we have a good selection of ancient SIFD and American "Folk Dancer" 78rpm records. Anyone interested?



# Woodvale International Folk Dance Group

Woodvale International Folk Dance Group  
50th Anniversary Dance

2pm Saturday 28th April 2018

Please put the date in your diaries, more details will be issued when things have been finalised.

**David Mckie**



## Bakewell Day of Dance

Every year, Bakewell in Derbyshire puts on a day of international dance, covering all types of dancing including folk, and once again we, the Barlow International Folkdance Group, Manchester, were invited to participate.

There are about thirty groups involved, each doing either one or two half hour slots in the four outdoor performance areas. We put on five Romanian dances followed by two dances for everyone when lots of people joined in. This was in a small square near the famous Bakewell pudding shop. The second session was an open space near the river, no dancing for all as we shared the half hour with our sister group in Manchester, the Opanka Group, two of the dancers being in both dems. (with a quick change of aprons). The Opankas have recently visited Co. Cork to give a concert there near the childhood home of their leader, Veronica Hartt.

The weather was good, the sun even came out in the afternoon, there were crowds of people (and dogs), everyone in the mood to enjoy the day in this pretty little stone built town. And the puddings are like manna from heaven!

**Philip E. Lloyd**



# Batrineasca

A fast

6 E A B B7 Em F# B F#

17 Bm Em A D A Bm F# Bm

Em A Dm Am Bm

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

No information from anyone on **Batrineasca** although I'm pretty sure it is danced quite widely within the Society. According to my new "archive" stick it was also covered by Marius Ursu more recently at Summer School, although perhaps a different version than the dance for which Wilf wrote the music.



The music for **La Mazurka** - French, Challonnaise next month. This is another one that looks easy enough for me to play on the accordion - but I don't know the dance! (help) **Ed.**



## SIFD Committee

- Chair: Jeanette Hull 39 The Green, Morden, Surrey, SM4  
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Contact the SIFD at *mail@sifd.org*



## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

**Friday 4th - Friday 11th SIDMOUTH FOLKWEEK** with  
Balkan folk dance workshops: 8th-11th (Cathy Meunier) and  
Balkan Instrumental workshops (Maya Buckley).

**Friday 11th - Friday 19th BILLINGHAM INT. FESTIVAL**

**S.I Sunday 13th PICNIC IN THE PARK** see page 3



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

