

Society for International Folk Dancing

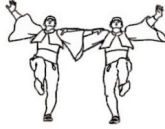


# SIFD News

# September 2017

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Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010 sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk

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



The photo on the front cover shows a girl from Narta, with jug, it was taken by Penny Munden, see her article on page 8. To complement the two articles on Albania this month we have an Albanian motif.

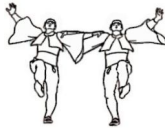
**Ed.**



## **AGM**

Just a reminder that the AGM is on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> September, and, enclosed with this issue are the accounts and reports for your perusal before the meeting.

**Dalila Heath**



## **SIFD Dances at Primrose Hill**

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September: 7pm - 9.45 pm

The weather might be warm and dry!

If anyone likes the idea of having tea in the park before the dance please email Jeanette ([jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jeanettehull@blueyonder.co.uk)) or 07722 655481.

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> October: 7pm - 9.45pm and the first Sundays in November and December.

**Jeanette Hull**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **Oct. 1: SIFD DANCE** see page 3

**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: Susie Kelleher & Anne Maddocks

S.I **Oct. 20: RAINMAKERS 41<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY DANCE** 8 -11pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PQ. £8.00. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. Please bring food to share. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).

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

S.I **Oct. 28-29: DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House, non-stop performances and workshops.

**Oct. 28-29: COSTUME EXHIBITION** see page 12

S.I **Nov. 5: SIFD DANCE** see page 3

S.I **Nov.11: ARMENIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** with Paylak Sarkisian see page 6

S.I **Nov.11: BALKANPLUS** - see page 6

S.I **Dec. 3: SIFD DANCE** see page 3

S.I **Dec. 29: TWIXMAS DANCE PARTY** at Stone Cross Memorial Hall (junction B2104 & B2247 nr Eastbourne). 10.30-4.30. £10 (half day £6). Shared dancing. Shared lunch. Drinks provided. Rowena Martin 01323 503991. *rowenahmartin@hotmail.com*.

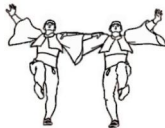
**S.I Feb.7-12: RIVIERADANCE! 2018** Residential Balkan & Israeli folk dance holiday with Steve Kotansky (dances from the southern Balkans) & Vincent Parodi (Israeli folk dances). Plus: singing with Heli, music-making with Maya, drumming with Dave, walking and sight-seeing. 5 nights full board in comfortable 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.*



### **Christmas Course 27 Dec. 2017 – 1 Jan. 2018**

Traditional dance seminar, Stojko Mitkovski - Macedonia, Rosa Gómez - Spain, Francis Feybli - dances of all the world. Hotel Mattli in Morschach above Lake of Lucerne close to Brunnen and Schwyz.

[www.antoniusshaus.ch](http://www.antoniusshaus.ch) / [www.morschach.ch](http://www.morschach.ch)

Course costs: CHF 885. Accommodation in a double room, half board.

Further details available mid-September 2017 from:

Volkstänze aus aller Welt, Gfellstrasse 18, CH-8499 Sternenberg ZH

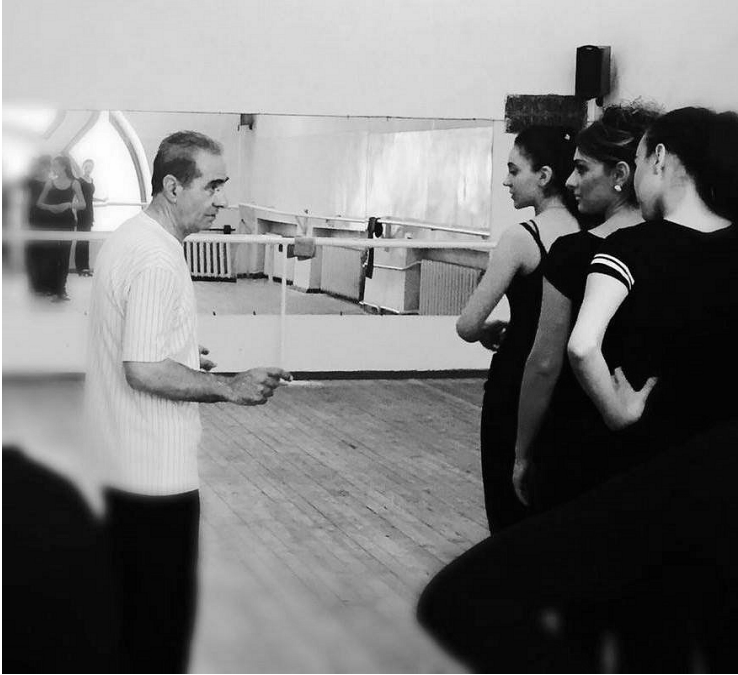
+41 (0)52 394 14 45 +41 (0)79 422 33 36

[info@vaw-online.ch](mailto:info@vaw-online.ch) / [www.vaw-online.ch](http://www.vaw-online.ch)

Videos on youtube under: VAW - Weihnachts-Lehrgang 2017/18

**Francis Feybli**

## Armenian Dance Workshop with Paylak Sarkisian



*(Paylak seen here working with the State Dance Company)*

A not to be missed event on Saturday 11th November 2017 at Kennedy Hall, Cecil Sharp House. 10am. to 5pm. with some live music and performance by Akhtamar and/or Dalila and Laurence during the break. Price £10

Paylak Sarkisian, long time Artistic Director of the Armenian State Song & Dance Ensemble and choreographer of the many beautiful dances we know, Tsaghgats Baleni, Im Anoush Davigh, Yaman Yar etc. will be visiting London for a week between 5th and 12th November 2017. Any groups wishing to have a session with him let me know but if you don't want that, do come to the workshop on 11th November. There will be a lovely selection of lyrical as well as mixed dances. Those of you who have been on Tineke's tours to Armenia will have worked with him and can vouch for him - do spread the word!

The workshop coincides with a **Balkanplus** evening with Ursula and myself so certainly worth the travelling.

**Dalila Heath**

## What to do with the SIFD Surplus??

Dear Friends,

A number of you will have heard me over the years expostulating that the reserves of the SIFD are way out of proportion to its present activities.

And the number of groups belonging to the SIFD is slowly diminishing??..

so maybe all groups who are members/associated could be offered a small grant - say £50 - for any purpose as long as it promotes the group; e.g. purchase of CDs or equipment, subsidising the attendance of the leader or group member(s) on a course - (normal running costs might not be eligible, since if the group can't afford these it's on the way out ultimately..)

At the moment, the SIFD seems to have as member groups of people mainly not belonging to countries whose dances they are doing.

Meanwhile the number of dance groups where the members are actually from the communities whose dances are being performed I think is increasing - apologies for the clumsiness of this sentence, but eg the UK Bulgarian Community last year could put on a whole day of dance and song with different groups, and the Georgian community did the same this year. OK the quality can be variable - but then so can SIFD member groups..

My thoughts are still unformed, and I offer this letter as a prompt to discussion at the AGM: could these groups be contacted and

a) free membership of the SIFD be offered to them for one year (OK how to contact them/find out about them may be difficult)

b) (if they take it up ?? or not ??), offering small grants ? £50 upon production of projected expenditure/receipts if they have no bank account (the often 1 person organiser scenario), ? more if they have a bank account and produce proposal/receipts.

(the size of the grant would obviously depend on the number of potential applicants)

I don't think the SIFD should make any judgement as to the quality of the proposal beyond the simple one that it seems to further the organisation's ability to function as a dance group.

**Toni Gutman**

## Aulona Folk Festival, Vlorë , Albania



*The group from Kosova*

In May I headed off once again for the sunny shores of southern Albania for the Aulona Folk Festival in the independence city of Vlorë. This time I travelled along the coast road from the southern town of Sarandë with its mountains sloping down to the sea and decked with olive groves dotted with cypress trees. Many of the coastal villages are perched up high above the sea and their pantile topped houses are reminiscent of those on the other side of the Adriatic in Italy.

This year's festival participants hailed from Kosovo, Macedonia, Czech Republic, Belarus, Bulgaria and local minority groups – Greeks from the nearby village of Narta and Çam(Cham) Albanians originating from Greek Epirus. Unfortunately, the Sri Lankan group wasn't able to make it in the end and I didn't manage to enlist a Morris team from the UK either.



Like last year, the festival was an intimate gathering of folk dance groups and their supporters. There were communal meals, such as lunch at a beach further round the bay, where dancers, singers and musicians could let rip. Once again I met up with Jordanka, the interpreter for the Bulgarian group, and Besnik, who dances as leading dancer in the Kosovo National Folk Dance Ensemble Shota and was leading the teenage Kosovar group. He had fond memories of a Morris team he'd met last year when performing with his own ensemble at a festival in Marseille. This year I was accommodated in a room with two teenage girls from the Ilirida group, an ethnic Albanian group from Skopje.



*Macedonians parade*

*continued overleaf >*

Before performing on the final night groups gathered in front of the port, doing their dances for passers-by to watch and the Bulgarians were very good at getting onlookers to join in their dances.

*Czech men>*



On the stage groups wowed us with their vibrant music, especially Ilirida group, and the male sections of groups with their athletic turns. But the Belarus group stole the show with men's high lifting straddle pike jumps and cartwheels in the air, landing them the festival cup.

At the post festival dinner groups exchanged mementos and the Balkan groups danced circle dances and 'belly dance'. The Skopje group were good at including me in their dancing. I also presented the festival organiser a symbolic gift from the UK and expressed the desire to see a British group taking part next year. I have had some interest from a Morris group for this year's festival, though they didn't have enough to make up a full team, and an English folk singing trio are also interested for next year. I'd also love to have a group of Balkan and other folk dancing enthusiasts to join the trip next year. As well as staying in Vlorë for the three days of the festival, the tour would fly into Corfu and make a round trip staying in Sarandë at the beginning and end of the tour, with a stop in the Ottoman town of Gjirokastër and visits to museums and places of interest in south-west Albania.

If you would like to join me next May (8th-14th) please email me at [albanian.nature@talktalk.net](mailto:albanian.nature@talktalk.net) for more information.

**Penny Munden**

## **Albania: a much maligned country**

Four of us from Ipswich flew to Corfu in June and took the ferry to Saranda in Albania. We drove to Tirana in a hired car, staying at Gjirokaster and Berat on the way. From Tirana we visited Kruja. The weather was hot and sunny pretty well all the time we were there.

We loved Albania, but most especially the people, who couldn't do enough to help us and were so friendly and generous. We never once felt uneasy or threatened in any way, and I don't think I've found such friendly people in any other country. There were tourists, but not a lot, and sometimes we were the only people in the shops or museums. No crowds, except when we encountered a coach load of Polish tourists in Kruja. In fact, Kruja was the most touristy place that we visited. There we found costumes for sale in the many shops in the bazaar. They turned out to be expensive so I only bought belts and hats. However, everything else was cheap: 200 lek (about £1.30) was the standard entry to a museum and also the price of a beer. Food, drink and accommodation were all inexpensive. We enjoyed the food (feta, tomatoes, cucumber, sausage, yoghurt etc for breakfast) and ate in a traditional restaurant in Tirana with some interesting dishes. Offal is a feature! And of course, pizza was everywhere.

More surprisingly, there was working wifi in every place where we stayed. Quite a number of people spoke English and I used Italian once in Tirana. We managed the odd phrase in Albanian, but found it difficult because of the lack of resemblance to any Latin, Germanic or Slav language. Finding our way might have been a challenge, but the main roads were good and practically traffic free except in the cities, but the lack of sign posts and sometimes confusing signs, made navigation tricky. Towns were another matter, as there appeared to be no obvious rules. We were lucky, as we had an intrepid driver and also a navigator who got us places using maps on his phone. And dancing, you may well ask? The big festival at Gjirokaster was in May, and unfortunately we didn't find any dancing in June, but we did meet up with Genci, the Albanian dance teacher we knew from the Balkan festival in Holland.

We only saw a part of the country. The beaches looked idyllic and the north is known for its mountains and its hiking opportunities. Perhaps another time. Advice is to go there before Albania is invaded by tourists, it's a lovely country.

**Sally Fletcher**

## Friday Feet

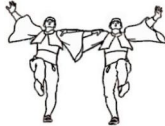
Friday Feet is a weekly drop-in class for newcomers to international dance led by Anne Leach and myself.

The group meets at Cecil Sharp House on Friday evenings from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. We teach a range of dances, many quite simple and some more complicated dances, but taught at a slower pace and with more repetition to make them accessible to dancers who are unfamiliar with the international repertoire. We have a small, friendly core of regular members who are always happy to welcome new members.

If you know anyone in the London area who is looking for an introduction to international dancing please let them know about us. And if you find yourself in London on a Friday evening and would like to enjoy a relaxed evening of dancing just come along and join in. Our first meeting after the summer break is on Friday 8 September: 7.30 pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY.

**Ursula Brown**

Contact: [sulabrown@hotmail.com](mailto:sulabrown@hotmail.com)



## Costume Exhibition

On October 28th and 29th, I will be showing some of the beautiful costumes I have acquired during my 50 years as SIFD teacher.

It will be held in Grindleford Parish Church, St. Helen's, (S32 2JN), from 11am to 4pm each day. Entrance is free, donations requested to the UNICEF fund for refugee children.

Refreshments will be available.

Grindleford is in the beautiful Peak District of Derbyshire, In the Peak National Park, and is within easy reach of Chatsworth, Haddon and Eyam halls, the Blue John mines at Castleton, Bakewell and its puddings! Why not make a weekend of your visit?

The photograph opposite shows one of the lovely costumes, which can be viewed.

**Marina Wolstenholme**



## **Balkanplus**

The new season begins in grand style with Maggie O'Regan as MC for the Balkanplus monthly dance on 9th September at Cecil Sharp House. We remind those attending the SIFD AGM on the same day that they will have free admission to this dance held in Trefusis.

Our goodwill extends to those still pondering whether to attend Iliana Bozhanova's Bulgarian workshops the following weekend - details of which can be found on the What's On page. Balkanplus are offering the early bird prices for those either attending both days or just the Sunday workshop at The Place dance studios. This may well be the last UK visit for a while by Iliana and Todor so these workshops should definitely not be missed.

**Brian Dowsett**

# La Mazurka

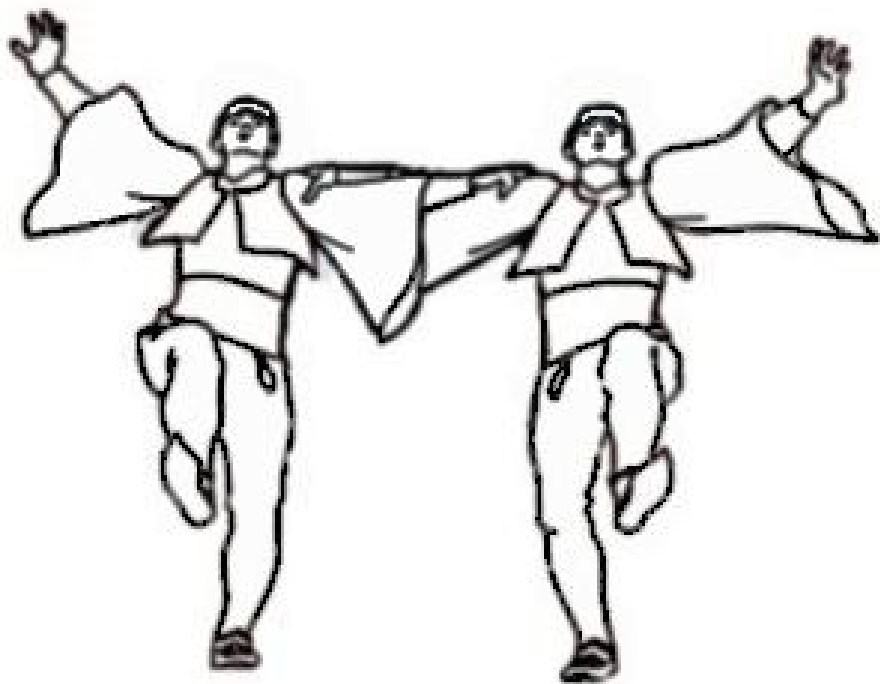
French-Chalonnaise

Slow, steady piece; slightly "plodding" with some emphasis on first beat of each bar.

**"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"**

No news about **La Mazurka** - I suppose it's just a mazurka with a waltz bit in between..... Or not.....

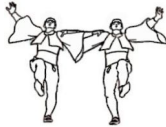
Hopefully next month's offering - **Bareenia** from Russia - will be known to some of you and you can share your experience with us. **Ed.**



Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane,  
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.  
*judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*

Registered Charity Number 284509

**Contact the SIFD at *mail@sifd.org***

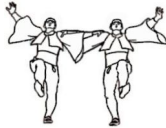


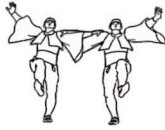
The SIFD needs new people on the Committee

- see the AGM information

thankyou

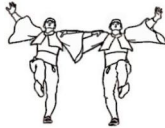
**Jeanette Hull**





## WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- S.I **Sunday 3rd SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 3
- S.I **Saturday 9th SIFD AGM** at 5pm in Storrow at Cecil Sharp House.
- S.I **Saturday 9th BALKANPLUS** - see page 13
- S.I **Sat.16-Sun.17 BULGARIAN DANCE - ILIANA BOZHANOVA** Sat 10.30-4.30pm at Primrose Hill Primary School, Princess Rd. Ldn NW1 8JL 5-10pm at Primrose Hill Comm. Centre 29 Hopkinson's Place (off Fitzroy Rd), NW1 8TN Sun.10.30- 4.30pm at The Place, 17 Duke's Rd. WC1H 9PY Sat:£40 Sun:£20 W/end package £50. Chq. payable to Balkanplus send to Maureen Felton 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG Alternatively, pay at door but please inform Maureen on 01473 272256 or [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com)
- S.I **Sat.23-Sun.24 BULGARIAN W/SHOP WITH ILIANA & TODOR** 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 [marymahony3@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:marymahony3@yahoo.co.uk)
- S.I **Saturday 23rd AROUND THE WORLD IN 80 MINUTES** 10.30am-midday, free w/shop of international dances (Janet Douglas & BRIDE), part of the Southdowns Folk Festival (Thursday-Sunday) Bognor Regis
- Saturday 30th NUTBROOK INT. FOLK DANCE GROUP** host 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)



*All material for the October issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 18th September.*