

The monthly newsletter for the Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



NEWS

EVENTS

ARTICLES

INFORMATION

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Having just returned from Granada I'm still feeling an urge to stamp, clap and shout loudly (John then mutters something in a pained voice instead of getting into the spirit of the thing). We walked (uphill in 32° - twice!) to the caves of Sacremonte and spent one evening in a small bar with three generations of a flamenco family. There were not as many street performers as there were in Seville - but those we did see were excellent.

o o

One of the dancers from the Bognor Regis group is pictured on the front cover picture; she is wearing a Portuguese (Minho) costume. The logo of the Kilikia group this month features as a motif.

Ed.



Southdowns Folk Festival

We recently enjoyed our annual folk dance festival in Bognor Regis - as usual we were heavily outnumbered by Morris and Cloggers - so not too much international folk dancing. Perhaps next year another international group will join us?.. (contact me if your group are interested - September 20th -23rd next year). We chose Portuguese, Spanish and Italian dances to perform around the town and a mixture of dances for the workshop.

Janet Douglas

photo below: La Danza



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Dec. 3: SIFD DANCE** at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London, 7pm - 9.45pm
- S.I **Dec. 9: BALKANPLUS** - MC Zivko Firfov with Dunav, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm
- S.I **Dec. 10: BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with Dunav Balkan Group. 8pm at: Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW
- 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 **Jan. 7: NEW YEAR BALKAN DANCE PARTY** at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR from 11.30 to 16.30. Cost £5. Details or book with Greg Boyd: gregboyd99@aol.com or 07810 181273 or Janet King on 0162957065 or j.king194@btinternet.com
- S.I **Jan. 13: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Meryl Abraham, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm
- 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). singing with Heli, music-making with Maya, drumming with Dave. 5 nights full board in Torquay. Prices £405 (dancers); £305 (non-dancers). cathy_meunier@hotmail.com or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX website: www.balkanfolkdance.org
- S.I **Mar. 3: DAY OF DANCE IN CALVER VILLAGE HALL**, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR with Lorna Ramsden & Lynda Shaw from Loidis 1030 to 1630. Bring your own lunch, drinks will be supplied. Further details from Janet King (01629 57065) j.king194@btinternet.com or Greg Boyd (07810 181273) gregboyd99@aol.com. Cost £10 for the day

Mar. 16-19: 3 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

with walking, Friday-Monday, 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

S.I **Apr. 27-30: GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon) (near Alcester, Warwickshire) International Folk Dancing with a special guest teacher from the Netherlands. Other varied dancing, music, handbells, Maypole dancing, part singing, walking and cycling. For further information see website: www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.

S.I **Apr. 28: WOODVALE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE** 2 - 5:30pm Tickets £8 at Platt Memorial Hall, Platinum Way, St Mary's Platt, Sevenoaks TN15 8FH. Dancing to live music & demo from Balaton. Come in costume if you can. Please bring your own drinks & glasses, tea/coffee will be provided (and some light refreshments in the interval). Please let us know if you are coming. (mr david.mckie@btinternet.com)

S.I **May 4 - May 7: SIFD INT. FOLK DANCING WEEKEND** at Halsway Manor, Somerset with Janet Woolbar & Stella Wentworth + guided walks. Robin & Judy Morris 01564773482 - 07966785172 robinnimbo@aol.com or <http://sifd.org/events/sifdevents.php>

May 4 - May 7: EASTBOURNE INT. FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL
01823 401271 www.eiff.org.uk



*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.*



Dear Janet,

I am sorry to see Jeanette Hull and Mary O'Mahoney standing down from our executive committee. I'd like to thank them for their service to the Society. Jeanette brought vision and energy to the role of chairman for which the Society is indebted.

I am very concerned that they have not been replaced on the committee which is now very much reduced in size. I hope the survivors are successful in appointing a chairman from among their number. Members with any but the shortest memory will be aware of how important that is.

I have been associated with the Society for a good many years thanks to Hilda's commitment to and enthusiasm for dancing; for a time I was able to make some contribution to the management of the Society's affairs. I am struck how the Society has changed over that time, in a number of ways. Others will notice different factors but I recognise the following changes:

1. The wonderful growth in the number and variety of affiliated groups.
2. Related to that is the greater geographical spread - the Society is no longer quite so London-dominated, reflected in the change in the subscription this year.
3. The Society used to appear elitist; it has become more inclusive, good, but that may have been accompanied by less focus on authenticity, reflected perhaps in the lapse of the Teachers Certificates and Silver Badges.
4. Thanks to easier travel, there has been more contact with the dances of European countries, possibly resulting in the biennial summer school playing a smaller part in the vital task of repertoire building.
5. And on a different note the Society has become much more secure financially, with a significant build up of reserves, to the extent that we have the money for developments but we don't have the personal energy to carry it out.

Sorry to lay substantial work on our much reduced committee but I'd like to address the first two issues; a solution to the fifth might come from a consequent invigoration of the Society.

The other two are for others to address since they are beyond my expertise. It seems to me that the Society needs to consider carefully whether its structures and procedures fit its changed and changing nature. We are still organised on a London-centric model, in spite of, for a time, more representation on the Committee from outside London and the practice of moving the AGM out of London at intervals. Fundamentally, our structure and membership fees don't recognise the mismatch between individual membership and the membership of affiliated groups. As the number of groups has increased the mismatch is becoming greater. I don't have figures but I surmise that there are likely to be more members of affiliated groups who are not individual members, but benefit from the Society's existence, than there are individual members who pay the bulk of the cost of SIFD.

The time, therefore, is overdue to rethink the basis of membership and recognise that a great deal of vibrant activity in the Society is in the groups. Could the committee have a good look at whether our default membership should be as a member of an affiliated group? There would still need to be individual membership for those who aren't in a group. It would mean rather higher affiliation fees but if all members of an affiliated group were automatically members of the Society on an equal footing to individual members, the membership cost would be more evenly spread and therefore substantially lower per member.

My proposals may not be the best but these issues need to be debated - preferably leading to some firm proposals at next year's AGM.

Roger Sturge

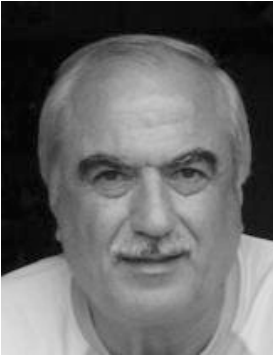


Trip to Festival Aulona, Albania, 8th-14th May 2018

Anyone interested in joining Penny Munden on a trip to the three day international folk festival in Vlore, Albania as well as a round trip through south-west Albania, for more information and cost please contact me at albanian.nature@talktalk.net . You can also refer to my article in the September issue of the SIFD News.

Penny Munden

Bulgarian Folk Dance with Belco Stanev - 10th-12th November



I am delighted to welcome back the renowned and charismatic Bulgarian folk dance teacher Belco Stanev. The dates are Friday 10th – Sunday 12th November. Anyone who has danced with him will know that his workshops are thoroughly entertaining as well as instructional, and are not to be missed. Belco is a kind and generous person with a warm heart and a great sense of humour. He is everyone's friend!

It is no wonder that dancers love him. He has made a significant contribution to the promotion of Bulgarian folklore throughout his life, and is highly respected for his knowledge and his unique skills in teaching dancing. His dances are already known and appreciated all over the world. Some which you might recognise are Backovsko Horo, Brestaška Râcenica, Pitat me Mamo, Isu Nedo, Kate Kate, Drijanovska Racenitsa II, Madro and Momino. He is particularly adept at selecting music and dances to suit his audience, and above all he delights in sharing his love of Bulgarian folkdance and music with others. The course is residential, but if you prefer not to stay at the college there is a non-residential option too.



The venue is the charming Derbyshire village of Calver in the Peak District National Park, and the course will take place in Cliff College. We have enjoyed staying at Cliff College in the past. It has an excellent dance space with a fairly springy floor (important for preserving dancers' joints!). All rooms are ensuite and of a high standard with tea and coffee making facilities and use of a shared kitchenette to prepare drinks. Non-dancing friends and family are very welcome, and walks will be arranged in this lovely area of wild moors, rolling hills, river valleys, woodlands and attractive villages.

The residential option includes 2 nights' accommodation with full-board from Friday evening meal (served at 6pm) to Sunday lunch (served at 1pm).

The non-residential option includes Saturday lunch and dinner plus either Friday dinner or Sunday lunch.

Teas, coffees, hot drinks etc are available throughout the weekend.

Residential dance course: £205

Residential only: £150

Single room supplement (2 nights) £10

You can omit Friday evening meal and / or Sunday lunch deduct £10 for each meal not required

Non-residential dance course option £125

For more information: Please contact Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX. Tel: 017687 73117. email: cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. Website: www.balkanfolkdance.org



Balkanplus

The November Balkanplus will be held on the 11th November in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm.

MCs will be Dalila Heath and Ursula Brown.

Admission £6.

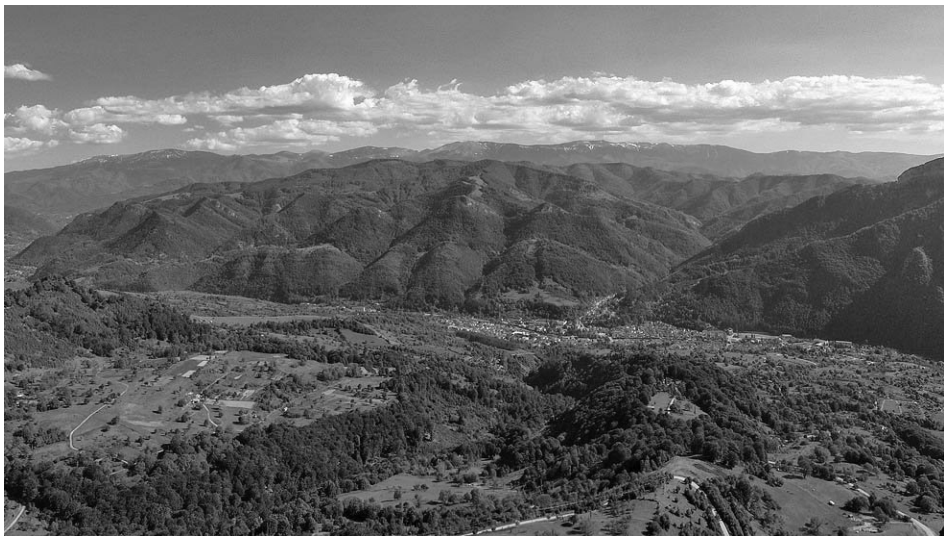
Maureen Felton

Tour Bulgaria with Iliana & Todor. 4th - 18th July 2018

I am delighted to be coordinating another amazing tour organised by Iliana Bozhanova. Participants on her previous tours will vouch for her ability to create an itinerary which appeals to both the experienced dancer and the curious first timer. Her unrivalled connections within the Bulgarian folklore community and her knowledge of places worth visiting make her tours very attractive. So much so that, although designed primarily for her British friends, we will again be an international group with enthusiasts in Germany and the USA having already shown interest. Being a summer tour, we will keep mainly to the higher (cooler) ground as we travel east from Sofia towards Veliko Tarnovo before heading south through Thrace to the Rhodopi mountains and then back to Shopluk and Sofia. A highlight will be a visit to the Rozhen Folk Festival which will be celebrating its 120th anniversary. We stay at 3 and 4 star hotels, enjoy the now famous picnics in idyllic settings, have singing and dance classes as well as meeting professional and authentic folk groups. Hopefully, Ron and Jean Wilks will be in the party to produce and offer for sale another superb DVD record of our experience. All for just €1,220 (€1,320 single). There would be the opportunity for an individual to come for less than 14 days if circumstances demand a shorter stay. Prices are quoted in euros because it is the stable currency in Bulgaria but I have opened a dedicated account in sterling to receive the deposit of £200 and the calculated final balance next June. Air fares are not included but recommended flights are given on the booking form. **This will be the one and only announcement in the News because the deposit must be received by the end of November** due to the need to secure bookings at the preferred hotels. Full information and booking forms on: www.balkanplus.org.uk or contact me if you have a query: bvdowsett@aol.com or tel, 01992 582717. This is not strictly a Balkanplus event so I am grateful to my colleagues for allowing the tour to be publicised on the website.

You may have noticed that the tour would have normally meant missing the July Balkanplus dance. In fact we have shifted the July Balkanplus to the third weekend when we host the first UK visit by Lee Otterholt – a major figure in the American Balkan scene. More about this and the return of Mitko Petrov in next month's issue. In the meantime, I look forward to receiving your completed booking forms.

Brian Dowsett



*Ron Wilks sent these photos of the mountains
and the Rozhen Folk Festival*



Anianpellon jenkka

I first learned this dance at Billingham years ago. It was taught amongst others, one being Lintulensi Oxali, taught by a lively Finnish group. I recommended them to the SIFD for the Summer School and they duly went to Aberswyth I think. It was one I wasn't able to attend.

Fiona Howarth

Anianpellon jenkka

Country: Finland Type: set dance Formation: closed circle of couples. M has partner on his R side. Steps: schottis, side-step, step-hop Music:

Dance progression

1-2 (a) During introductory bars, all W turn towards partner (CCW) one-half turn to face out of circle. Reform closed circle, hands at shoulder height. Beginning with ML/WR foot, dance 2 schottis steps moving in RLOD.

3-4 All drop hands with corner, and R in R with partner and L hand held up, turn one full turn CW on the spot, 4 step-hops. Finish in closed circle, W facing out and M facing in.

5-8, 1-8 Repeat (a) three times. Finish in open circle, W facing out, M facing into circle, with partner on his R side.

9-12 (b) W stand facing out. Meanwhile, M, with arms folded on chest, dance 2 schottis steps into centre (9-10), turn one-half turn CW on the spot to face out with 2 step-hops (11), and stamp 3 times (12).

13- 16 M dance 2 schottis steps towards partner, passing partner on the R (13-14), take two-hand hold with partner and turn a full turn CCW on the spot with 4 step-hops (15-16). M finish facing out of circle with arms folded on chest.

9-16 M stand facing out of circle, arms folded on chest. Meanwhile, W repeat (b), dancing into centre with 2 schottis steps (9-10), turning one half-turn CCW on the spot with 2 step-hops (11), clapping three times (12), dancing away from centre with 2 schottis steps (13-14), passing partner to the L, and turning with two-hand hold to partner one full turn CW with 4 step-hops. Couples finish with M facing out of circle, W facing partner, and holding inside hands.

1-2 (c) M turn CCW, W turn CW, two full turns, moving in LOD. 4 step-hops. Finish in waltz hold with partner, M facing out of circle and W facing in.

3-4 All dance 4 side-steps, moving in LOD.

5-8, 1-8 Repeat (c) three times. Finish in closed waist-shoulder hold with partner.

|:9- 16:| (d) All dance 32 step-hops, turning CW and moving in LOD.

Repeat from (a) as desired.

Taught by Matora in Vancouver 1978-10-26



I have also published the notes from Janet Woolbar (*overleaf*) which are very slightly different to these from Fiona:

fists on hips or arms folded on chest?

and

Is a schottis the same as a polka?

Discuss...

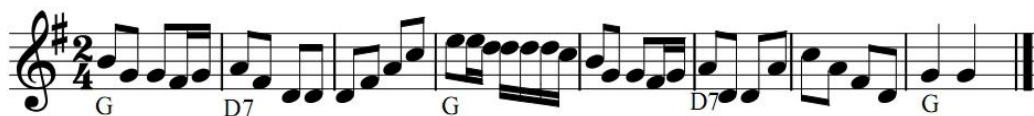


Next month's offering from the "**Wilf Horrocks' Collection**" will be **Dargasson** - ye olde dance from England.

Ed.



Anian Pellon Jenkka



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Dear Janet.

These notes were passed on to me by Margery Latham after the Finnish course at the summer school (in Scotland?).

Anianpellon jenkka. Finland.

Anianpellon is a town in south Finland and jenkka is a Finnish polka dance. It is a couple dance, danced in a circle formation.

Join R hands with partner and L hand with neighbour, men facing in, girls facing out. Men start on L foot, girls on R, travelling clockwise.

2 polka steps, then release L hands and turn 4 step-hops turning cw. on the spot with partner. Free hands shoulder high with palms facing to the ceiling.

Rejoin circle and repeat , 4 times in all.

Girls stay facing out, fists on hips. Men polka to the centre 2 polkas 2 step-hops turning ccw. On the spot. Stamp and clap 3 times.

2 polkas back to partner, on her right. Take 2 hands with a wide hold, turn once or twice ccw, with 4 step-hops. End men facing out, fists on hips.

Girls facing in polka in and out of circle as men did previously. Finish side by side with partner facing ccw. round circle, holding inside hands.

Swing inside hands forward and push away to give impetus. 4 Step-hops turning away from partner.

1 or 2 whole turns moving forward slightly. End face to face with partner men backs to centre girls facing in. Join with wide arm hold, 4 step-close sideways moving ccw. dance 4 times in all.

Peasant hold, 16 step-hops round circle ccw. or 8 normal polkas and 8 reverse polkas in the same direction.

Janet Woolbar

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judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk

Secretary: Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park,
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hollycp@hotmail.co.uk



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

- S.I **Sunday 5th SIFD DANCE** at Primrose Hill
- S.I **Fri.10th – Sun.12th BELCO STANEV** teaches Bulgarian folk dances at Cliff College, Calver, Derbyshire. Residential weekend dance course (2 nights full board) £205. Friends and family welcome. Walks in the delightful Derbyshire countryside will be arranged. Non residential option with meals: £125. For details and a booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or e:mail your request to cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. Website www.balkanfolkdance.org
- S.I **Friday 10th PAYLAK SARGSYAN AT BARNET** the Armenian choreographer presents a delightful taste of what to expect on Saturday. 8pm at Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW £5 Contacts 01992 582717 (Brian) or 020 8440 1366 (Irene)
- S.I **Saturday 11th PAYLAK SARKISIAN, ARMENIAN W/SHOP** Kennedy Hall, Cecil Sharp House.10am-5pm. £10. Some live music & performance by Akhtamar and/or Dalila & Laurence during the break.
- S.I **Saturday 11th BALKANPLUS** see page 9



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