

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



 **December 2017**

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West
Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010 email: *SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk*

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

Happy Christmas

Firstly, a big ‘thankyou’ to Dalila Heath for getting the News out for another year as well as all her committee jobs.

Secondly, thank **you** for reading it and thanks especially to all those who have contributed letters, articles and pictures for the News this year.

The committee has sent several articles, so thanks are also due to them, and outgoing members Jeanette and Mary.

The front cover shows dolls in Sami costume; the Sami inhabit the arctic circle north of Norway and other arctic circle countries. Dancers from Dance Around the World are pictured on the back page.

There is more on the schottis/polka from Anianpellon jenkka last month (page 18) and hopefully you will send in some interesting information about **Bourée Carrée de Châtre** next month.

Ed.



This is a response to Roger Sturge’s letter in the November News.

Roger is rightly concerned by the absence of replacements for the two committee members who stood down at the 2017 AGM. There are too few members contributing actively to the management of the Society and most of us have conflicting demands on our time.

This certainly applies to the team that was formed after the 2016 AGM for one task that Roger wishes to see addressed; a review of the SIFD’s membership structure to reflect the changed proportions of individual members and groups. (See item 8.2 of the 2016 AGM Minutes as included in the papers for the 2017 AGM.)

The Committee has not lost sight of this and we look forward to the team’s analysis and proposals when they are able to submit them.

Richard Mellish



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 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 **Jan. 27: OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO PARTY**, St. Margaret's Institute, Polstead Road, (Off Woodstock Road), Oxford, OX2 6TN. 7:00 to 10:30. Food & drink provided. Music: CDs & Dunav. Tickets at the door: Adults: £10; children under 14: £3.00; children under 4: free. We would be pleased if you would like to come in a costume. For more information email: *sallylhumphrey@gmail.com* or *charlotte@haenlein.co.uk*
- S.I **Feb. 3: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Emily Nisbet, in Trefusis, at 7.00pm. Please note this is the FIRST Saturday in February
- 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
- S.I **Mar. 4: GREEK FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP** Dimitris Triandafyllidis will be teaching dances from Aridaia, Central Macedonia [to be confirmed] at the UPS Club, Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG. £30 to include refreshments. Cheques made out to 'Helios' should be sent to Sue King, 83 Upland Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5JA

- S.I **Mar. 10: BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be The Oxford Group, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.
- 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. (mrdavid.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.*

SIFD Shopping Bag

..... an ideal Christmas present
The price is £6.



The bags are 100% cotton, in navy blue cotton, with a design using our feet logo in two shades of blue and white. They measure 37cm x 43cm, with long handles. They are hand washable.

You can buy by post (cheques payable to SIFD) from Judith Payling (see address in this News). To the bag cost add postage and packing as follows:

£1.22 for 1 or 2 bags

£2.44 for 3 or 4 bags

£2.90 for 5 or more bags, up to 10.

Or email Judith with your order (not forgetting to include your address!) and send your total remittance electronically to the SIFD's account with CAF Bank, number 00016902, sort code 40-52-40. As a reference state BAG and your name.



SIFD December Dance

The next dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Rd. on the 3rd of December will have **Jill Bransby** as the MC. Please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening of dancing.
7pm - 9.45pm. See you there,

Helen Ezra

Dance Around the World

I was lucky enough to attend the Saturday of Dance Around the World this year; it was yet another brilliant success for the annual festival in Cecil Sharp House. Congratulations to all the organisers and helpers. Fiona has sent a more comprehensive report (page 13).

There were many returning groups to delight us: including Balaton, the London Iberian group (*see back page*), Ngati Ranana, Lithuanian, Polish, Estonian, Ukrainian; and, some striking first timers. Chief of these for me were the Indonesian girls with their singing, clapping and rhythmic movements - full of joy - just magic! (*below*)



There was a very interesting Hula item, each section preceded with an accompanying commentary that gave the history of the dance and how it had/has been affected by colonists and tourists - Hawaii & other islands.

So much to see and do, so much choice, I plumped for a pretty energetic workshop with the Guildford Hungarian Group. I was quite relieved they included a couple of dances that Hilary Bolton had taught us years ago (just goes to show the dances in our repertoire are authentic).

Janet Douglas

Report on the 2017 AGM

Twenty-five members attended the Meeting in Storrow at Cecil Sharp House on 9th September. The full Minutes of the AGM will be published in due course.

The Chairman Jeanette Hull presented her Report, which had been published with the Agenda. The ensuing discussion referred to the ways in which the SIFD can give financial help to its groups and members in projects and ventures in the interests of international folk dance. The problems presented by the decreasing size of the Committee and the unwillingness of people to come forward in response to requests for help were mentioned. It was advised that the Digital Archive Memory Stick update should be available later in the year.

The Treasurer Judith Payling presented her Report which had been published with the Agenda. Discussion on the Sunday Dances followed. The Independent Examiner's Report, previously published, was accepted and Denis McCarthy was re-appointed as Independent Examiner.

Following presentation of the Membership Secretary Dalila Heath's previously published Report there was discussion about falling individual membership. The Meeting was told that the subgroup set up at the previous AGM, to consider whether the membership structure should change to somehow take account of dancers currently members of groups but not of the SIFD itself, would be reporting in due course.

The new Committee was announced. The new Committee are Judith Payling, Holly Payling, Richard Mellish, Dalila Heath, John Stewart and Caspar Cronk. It was announced that the new Committee would appoint its officers at its first meeting. Mary O'Mahony and Jeanette Hull were both standing down from the Committee, with effect from this AGM. No nominations had been received for new Committee members.

Within the item Any Other Business there was discussion on a number of topics as follows:

- SIFD News.....people were encouraged to write articles and send them to the Editor.
- General Information about Committee Meetings, and when and where they are held.

- The Quorum required for the AGM, and whether the size specified in the Constitution presented a problem.
- Llangollen International Eisteddfod and SIFD's donation towards prize money in memory of Lucile Armstrong, made from funds donated when she died.
- The Summer School and similar events
- Support for Dance Around the World and the group Friday Feet
- An Equipment review, which it was proposed should be followed by appropriate action to ensure that SIFD has modern equipment that can cope with old and new technology, and which could be loaned to groups.
- Information about MCs at Sunday Dances and Balkanplus a query was raised, and in response it was confirmed that the practice was that details are shown in the SIFD News.

Judith Payling



SIFD Dances

The Sunday dances have been consistently making a loss. Despite some attempts to increase their appeal, they are in practice attended almost exclusively by Society members, and we as a national Society cannot continue indefinitely to subsidise a local event that is mainly for our members in the London area.

The dances will therefore have to cease before long unless they can be made to break even, or at least to come very close. We have enquired about the possibility of using Storrow at Cecil Sharp House but that it is not available on Sundays. The dances will therefore continue at Primrose Hill for the time being but the price will increase to £12 per head for January and February.

We will review the situation in the light of the numbers attending in January and February. Possibilities to be considered will include changing to the lower hall at Primrose Hill, reducing the duration of the dances, or increasing the price further.

Richard Mellish

Committee Meeting Report

This is a report on the Meeting held in October 2017.

Officers

Firstly, the Committee agreed that Richard Mellish would be acting Chairman for the year, and he chaired the meeting. Judith Payling has agreed to continue as Treasurer and Dalila Heath as Secretary.

Finance

The Finance Report followed. The Treasurer confirmed that the Charity Commission Return for 2016 had been submitted, and the Society's Insurance renewed. Regarding the current year's financial position a small deficit is anticipated. It was confirmed for the record that small grants of financial assistance had been given to Sheffield EuroSessions, and to Elsa Perez for work on a Riel dance project. A request previously received from Eastbourne International Folk Festival for funding was discussed. It was agreed to hold further discussions with the Festival organisers before deciding whether to provide any funding.

Membership

On Membership, the Membership Secretary reported that about 20 members had not yet renewed their subscription, and would be reminded on this. There is a new Affiliated Group – Kitka. There are no outstanding Group renewals. Stella Wentworth has been accepted as a Life Member.

Publicity

The next step in the SIFD Website Development was discussed and actioned. Revision of the Groups Leaflets had been completed by Alison Scrimshaw, and the leaflets printed. The Committee noted the Report and Recommendations of the informal Publicity sub committee that met in the summer.

It was commented that we need to remind group leaders publicising events to send information both to the News and to Dalila Heath so she can arrange for it to be put on the SIFD website.

SIFD Courses and Dances

The loss arising on the Sunday Dances, and action to be taken, was discussed. See separate announcement in this issue of the News. Regarding the Teaching Group/Course the Committee notes that this has

not proceeded as initially hoped because it has proved very difficult to co-ordinate. The Daycourse programme continues on hold, pending ideas for renewing active interest and encouraging people to attend. Proposal for an inexpensive residential SIFD-sponsored event to attract young people, over the Easter 2018 holiday.

It was agreed to await an update from John Stewart on behalf of the organisers before discussing this further. Meanwhile the Committee once again gave their approval of the proposals and confirmed that the Society will support the event financially.

Llangollen International Eisteddfod

The SIFD's contribution to prize money at the Folk Dance Competition, in memory of Lucile Armstrong a former judge at the competition, in whose memory donations were received from members when she died, was discussed. It was agreed to continue the present arrangements.

Members' Handbook

The Committee discussed the position on the amendment of this, which had been "on hold" for some time. It was noted that for the future a decision would be needed on whether a printed format should continue to be offered, or alternatively electronic information. Meanwhile the outstanding points holding up the revision will be looked at and hopefully resolved.

Matters arising from the AGM

- See the Any Other Business section of the Report on the AGM. All these points were discussed. Some are covered elsewhere in this Report.
- Reports will be made to the membership via the SIFD News on proceedings at Committee Meetings.
- The ways in which the Society can financially assist its groups and members will be recapped in the News.
- It was agreed that a goodwill payment would be made to Dance Around The World 2017, in recognition and support of their work in promoting international folk dance and music. We will discuss with Friday Feet how we can best assist them.
- The Equipment review will be completed and the appropriate action necessary to ensure that SIFD has modern equipment that can cope with old and new technology, and which can be loaned to groups, will then be considered.

Serbian Folk Dance Course



with Vladica Tanasijevic and Sasha Smrekcic

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd April 2018

This talented and popular duo from Serbia has inspired people all over the world to discover and enjoy Serbian folk dance and music. They bring a wonderful combination of dances and live music, together with their entertaining, but informative style of teaching. Vladica teaches the dances and plays the tapan. Sasha is a superb accordionist, and their delightful singing will surely warm your heart! They teach dances from all over Serbia, with a variety of lively and sedate, simple and more challenging – something for everyone. Vladica was a dancer in the ensemble "Kolo" in Belgrade. Later, from 1995 he became a dance teacher and the artistic leader of the Branko-Krsmanovic- Ensemble. He is the organizer of various folklore-events. Together with Sasha he has taught Serbian dances all over Europe, the USA and Asia.

Saturday: Ecclesall Parish Hall, Ringinglow Road, Sheffield S11 7PP

Sunday: Crookes Social Club, Mulehouse Road, Sheffield S10 1TD

Both venues have free on-street parking nearby, and buses from City Centre.

Saturday including evening £35; Sunday £25; Weekend package £50.

Bookings: For more information please contact Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria, CA12 4DX. Tel 017687 73117 (home) e:mail cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. website: www.balkanfoldance.org

Cathy Meunier

How can the SIFD help you?

The Society is always keen to support its groups and members in ventures and projects furthering the cause of International Folk Dance and Music.

Over the years announcements have been made about the ways that groups and members can obtain support. Details of these are summarised:

Helping New Groups get started

It is recognised that the initial costs of setting up a new group and the running costs during the period in which a group becomes established can be prohibitive. A scheme has been set up under which, as appropriate, the SIFD offers assistance to a member setting up a group. The assistance can include a hall hire subsidy, contribution to publicity costs, 10 hours free teaching, insurance benefits, and advice.

Events and Activities Underwriting Policy

This Policy allows the Society to underwrite an event or activity, or provide a subsidy, if the event or activity is in furtherance of the Society's objectives as set out in the Constitution, and if in the absence of financial support the event or activity might not take place, would not take place, or would be substantially less effective.

The Frank Flanagan Bursary Scheme

Part of the bequest left to SIFD by Frank Flanagan has been used to establish a bursary fund to make awards to members. The object of the awards is to provide financial support for the attendance of SIFD Teachers and potential teachers and leaders at appropriate training events and courses, with resultant benefit to the Society.

SIFD Weekends

Money in the Frank Flanagan Fund can be used to financially underwrite Weekends, which it is intended should include teaching sessions, as well as social dancing.

Please contact the SIFD Committee for more details. All applications are considered on their merits, and taking account of the foreseen benefit to the Society's objectives in relation to the amount of money sought and the state of the Society's finances at the time.

In addition, SIFD Equipment and Costumes may be borrowed by groups and members.

List of SIFD Groups and Classes

I am pleased to report that the collating of all the details of SIFD Groups and Classes is now complete for 2017, and the finished list with updated details should be accompanying this copy of the SIFD News (or one very soon for those who receive the News by post.) This is a detailed list, only circulated within the Society.

The leaflets this year have a new look. As space was getting so tight, it was decided to divide the information into three leaflets, instead of two.

Fortunately a line drawn roughly from Bristol to the Wash proved a good division, with almost the same number of groups either side. So there is now a leaflet to cover the area North of this line, a second to cover the area South of this line, and a third for the London area. The advantages are that there is more room – the Name of the group or class is now mentioned, an email address included where given, and if you sent me one, your logo appears next to your entry.

Another change is that each Group and Class is being sent some of these leaflets, hoping that they will be handed out at festivals and dance-outs. Cost has dictated that only a small number will be sent initially, but if more are required, please let me know.

I would like to thank all group leaders who have rejoined (especially those who replied promptly) and for supplying me with any changes to their details. We have sadly lost three groups this year Cambridge International, Withernsea and Pembroke International Folk Dance Group. But on the plus side, we have gained three – welcome to Kitka Bulgarian Folk Dance Group in Rochester, and Zdravets Bulgarian Folk Dance Group in Portsmouth. And welcome back to Lewes Israeli Folk Dance Group. If you're nearby, do support them.

Please could you check your entries, where applicable, and let me know if you notice any errors. Apologies in advance... Too late I'm afraid to correct the leaflets, but the detailed list can be updated straight away, and of course the website.

Alison Scrimshaw

020 8395 1400 alison.scrimshaw@gmail.com



Report on 2017 Dance Around the World

How do they do it? This year's was the best ever, with a great atmosphere. The House was buzzing and absolutely packed.

My warm-ups were well attended, and everyone was game for some of the more challenging moments such as "Helicopters" and Duna Ide.

Guildford Hungarian Group: This was one of several groups that presented a whole community of dancers including very young children. It is a pleasure to see the traditions being handed on.

Hungarian dance – Hunique: This group of young enthusiasts gave an exhilarating and lively performance. I enjoyed their workshop, but the recordings used went on so long that I couldn't keep going to the end!

On Sunday we had two Greek groups.

Figoura was new to us. A group of young energetic dancers. The workshop was enjoyable but again the recordings were very long.

Philhellenes: George and his gang gave a well paced workshop. I found I could cope with the dances and the group members were very supportive and friendly. They performed Cretan dances in a true traditional style.

Ngati Ranana: The Maories gave a thrilling performance and were as exciting as ever. They bravely gave a workshop on the Haka which was a triumph!

Slovak Dance – Morena: This performance opened with a magical moment. Three musicians in Detva costumes played haunting music on instruments I have never seen before. My friend Frank Dowling tells me they are called fujaras. They are very long wooden tubes held vertically, in three sizes; the vibrations of the air in them rang round the hall to a spellbound silence.

Thrales Rappers: They gave a thrilling performance of rapper swords at a very brisk pace, accompanied by a brilliant "piper" who was playing an adapted recorder. I was so impressed when watching their workshop; they managed to coax novices through the complicated routines without anyone becoming decapitated! Each one was so patient and helpful, brilliant teaching! The learners must have felt exultant when they did their final accompanied performance.

Tower Ravens: This group of ladies also did rapper swords and showed great agility and pace. The “Betty” did her part nipping through the knots without dislodging the raven on her shoulder. Great fun.

Indonesian Dance: the members of my class who attended on Saturday rated this performance as the most amazing and breathtaking. The line of young girls worked in perfect co-ordination and changed position, action and gesture in a seamless display of agility and unity. They were performing in front of their Ambassador and I am sure he was delighted with them.

Anglo –International Barn Dance: This was a fitting end to the weekend, and was attended by dancers from many of the groups. I have not seen Kennedy Hall as full as that for many a year. Cloudburst was on brilliant form and started off the evening by playing a tune [Playford or of that ilk?] that showed the strengths of all the instrumentalists.

Anne and Dave were worthy hosts and gave us a programme of well chosen dances, managing to coax even the most bewildered through the steps.

There were few “sitters-out” and it was a delight to see, as one progressed around, smiling faces, and friendly greetings. It really was Dancing Around the World. Thank you Anne, Caspar and team. Here’s to next year, October 27th and 28th. Don’t miss it.

Fiona Howarth



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, please contact me at albanian.nature@talktalk.net for more information and cost. You can also refer to my article in the September issue of the SIFD News, some video footage of the 2016 festival on my Facebook page ‘Penelope Tours’ and the Aulona Festival’s own Facebook page.

Penny Munden

Balkanplus Weekend Workshops in 2018

Two dance events dominate the calendar this coming year. Mitko Petrov returns in April and Lee Otterholt makes a long awaited first UK visit in July.



Mitko has earned a deserved reputation for introducing excellent dances like Melnishko and Deninka to our Balkan repertoire. He has been invited to a number of groups during his stay but the main event will be in London on 14th and 15th April where he will, for the first time and in true Balkanplus style, add a light sprinkling of non-Balkan recreational dances to his Bulgarian offerings. The Saturday workshop at Primrose Hill Community Centre will be followed by the monthly Balkanplus dance in Trefusis at Cecil Sharp House. We have the use of Kennedy (the main hall) on Sunday so there will be no restriction on numbers. Spread the word to friends, family and neighbours! The prices are as follows:

Saturday workshop	Sunday workshop	Party	Weekend deal
£30	£25	£10	£55
Early bird: £25	£20	£10	£45

The early bird prices apply up to the end of February and, as always, there are extra discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders.

It would indeed be a good time to consider buying a Balkanplus season ticket because we have two weekend workshops within four months of each other. Lee Otterholt was born in the US of Norwegian-American parents and has built a distinguished career in both countries as a dancer, dance teacher and choreographer. He and his wife Hilde will be guests of Balkanplus on their way home after a family visit to Norway.

We have to thank Lee for introducing Cobankat amongst other dances to the recreational dance scene. His programme will include dances from the Balkans and beyond. Hilde is also a great dancer and might be persuaded to share her special knowledge of Hawaiian dances. The workshops are in Trefusis on the weekend of 21st and 22nd July coinciding with the July Balkanplus which was put back to the third Saturday because of Iliana's Bulgarian tour (needless to mention because you will all have doubtless booked your place by now!).



Lee and Hilde have also offered to come along to the end-of-term party of Friday Feet on 20th July for - at the very least - a cameo appearance. We are in discussion about including this in the weekend deal. Full details about all the above will appear soon on the Balkanplus website www.balkanplus.org.uk and here in the Dates for Your Diary pages.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (guaranteed in April and June at least!)

Brian Dowsett



Armenian Dance with Paylak Sargsayan

What a pleasure to work with a teacher who did so much more than teach some steps! With very little English, Paylak demonstrated what he wanted, vocalising the rhythms and showing the steps with great clarity. His observation of our efforts was penetrating and exacting. Nothing escaped his eye; he demonstrated and corrected subtle nuances of timing, gesture, which way palms were facing and many points of style. It was amazing to see a whole circle of dancers of varying experience and aptitude all in unity and looking quite Armenian to my eyes.

The day was completed by an excellent Balkanplus at which Dalila and Ursula were MCs. They led us through a varied programme of about thirty-seven accessible dances with confidence and enthusiasm. A super day of dance!

Fiona Howarth

Memories of English country dancing in Buckinghamshire

Chloe Middleton-Metcalf is writing her PhD at Roehampton university about English social folk dance and would like to hear from individuals who have memories of English country dancing and barn dances in Buckinghamshire.

She is particularly keen to hear from people who have reminisces from the 1940s-1970s. Perhaps you danced at school, did you love it or loathe it? Perhaps you went to a barn dance run by your church or youth group, what was this like? Did you ever go to a charity barn dance? Did you teach English country or international folk dance? Did you ever go to your local folk dance club? Were you involved in the Schools dance festival in Aylesbury?

Chloe is keen to collect written memories, these could be sent my e-mail or post. If you would like the memories to be anonymised, please note this on the correspondence. By sending written memories Chloe understands that you will be happy for her to use these in her PhD and other research outputs.

Memories can be posted to C. Middleton-Metcalf c/o Lisa James. Dept. Sec., Department of Dance, Frobel College, Roehampton University, London SW15 5PJ. Or e-mail: *middletc@roehampton.ac.uk*
I look forward to hearing from you.

Chloe Elizabeth Middleton-Metcalf

07500862568 <http://www.englishfolkcostumes.co.uk/>



Balkanplus

The December Balkanplus will be held on the 9th December in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm. MCs will be Zivko Firfov with live music from Dunav.

If people have costumes it would be great if you can wear them, dust them off and brighten up mid-winter. Admission £8.

Maureen Felton

Dear Janet,

Is a schottis (schottische) the same as a polka?

What an interesting question. My gut feeling said "No". So I looked it up in my dictionaries.

Concise Oxford (16th Edition)

POLKA - a lively dance of Bohemian origin in duplex time (origin C19 via Frs Ger from Czech - pũlka - halfstep)

SCHOTTISCHE - a dance resembling a slow polka (origin C19 from Ger - de schottische tanz "The Scottish dance")

The Modern University Dictionary (no date of publication, but the map of India shows Ceylon - not Sri Lanka)

POLKA - a lively dance of Bohemian origin (Fr Polish)

SCOTTISCHE - a form of round dance resembling a polka. Highland Schottische - lively dance to Strathspey tunes, a Highland Fling (Ger - Scot)

The Macquarie Concise Dictionary 1982 (Australian)

POLKA - a lively round dance of Bohemian origin (Fra - It from Czech pulka - half step)

SCHOTTISCHE - a round dance resembling the polka (Ger Scottish dance)

After all that - they are different. In my mind the polka is danced side-stepping, whereas the schottis is forward stepping. The polka is more bouncy and 'peasant like' danced in couples, the schottis slower and open hold danced forwards.

However, they both come from the same Bohemian (Czech) root. Which came first we will never know (or will some bright SIFD member come up with the answer?). Thank you for such a good item for discussion. I hope it is lively. Every good wish to you and all 'older' members.

Ruth Coton



Dargason

I am puzzled why you refer in the last NEWS to Dargason as "ye olde". Most of Cecil Sharp's revival of English Country Dances were worked out from the Playford's "The English Dancing Master" descriptions published from 1650 onwards. They were all old. The social dances that have been collected from those dancing them and known as Traditional dances don't have a history with them and I am not aware of the period of their origins. The dance was published in Sharp's "The Country Dance Book - Part II" dated 1911 and is called Dargason or Sedany (one S) from Playford 1652>

The tune may sound familiar to some as it occurs in Holst's St. Paul's Suite and is played simultaneously with the better known Greensleeves. Holst was a teacher at St. Paul's Girls School and composed The St. Paul's Suite for the school orchestra.

The dance has little to commend it apart from the novelty and the tune. It remains known to the 'Playford' dancers, but I suspect it is not very often danced.

The dance is 'For as many as will' and requires the length of music to correspond to the number of couples dancing. The dancers form a single straight line with the first couple facing in the middle and successive numbered couples in sequence behind the first couple; the last couple being at the ends of the line. (Men in one half and ladies in the other half)

- 1 4 bars First couple siding (Cecil Sharp siding).
2 bars First couple set to each other.
2 bars First couple pass each other by going to the right (left shoulders passing) whilst turning single to the right to face the second couple.
This 8 bar sequence repeats until the first couple get to the end of the line when everyone turns about and continue until everyone is home with first couple facing.
- 2 Like part 1 except siding is replaced with arming right until everyone turns about and then arms left to return to places.
- 3 Progressive straight hey with hands started by the first couple. Everyone goes to both ends and stop when they get back to their original place.

Some of the dances in Sharp's part II book evolved after the first publication and printing; differences in Dargason printed in 1911 were:

Part 1 The women passed their partners turning single "counter-clockwise" (turning to the left).

Part 2 "Same as the First Part, except that dancers arm as they side." I take this to mean arm left half way round to change places and then arm right back to place.

Part 3 With the first couple facing, those behind them face in pairs and all start the hey together (with hands).

John Walford



Dargasson

English

8 A
F Gm C7 F Gm
15 B
C7 G Am D7 G
22 C
Am D7 A Bm E7 A
Bm E7 Bm E7 A

Play 8xA 8xB 3xC

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Dargason: my favourite English dance (*below, in green, dancing it recently*)

The Playford notes: “*For as many as will standing thus: OOOO)))*”

- *First man and Wo. sides once set and turne S_. Passe forward each to the next sides, set and turne S_: As much to the next _: And so forward and back till you come to your places where you began.*
- *Armes all as you sided, till you come back to your own places.*
- *The single Hey all handing as you passe till you come to your places.”*

Ed.



SIFD Committee



- Acting Chairman** Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN *richard@mellish.eu* 0208 863 7807
- 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

Other Committee Members:

Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340 4683
caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk

John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67 8NU
j2ohn@yahoo.com

Holly Payling 07784 117599 *hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*



contact the SIFD committee at: *mail@SIFD.org*



WHAT'S ON IN DECEMBER

- S.I **Sunday 3rd SIFD DANCE** - see page 6
- S.I **Saturday 9th BALKANPLUS** - see page 19
- S.I **Friday 10th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** with Dunav. 8pm at: Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW. £6 includes food and drinks. Contact: Brian on 01992 582717
- S.I **Friday 29th 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.



*All material for the January issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor **in writing** by **16th December**.*

