

The monthly newsletter of The Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



NEWS

EVENTS

ARTICLES

INFORMATION

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January 2018

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

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

Happy New Year

As 2018 begins here's hoping for a year of more dancing opportunities and dance events - don't ever think about giving it up (see page 6).

Simon and Joan Guest have sent a page of quiz and riddle for your entertainment (page 11). The front cover picture of an Indian dancer was taken at the last Dance Around the World Festival; a drawing that Karl Klenk once sent in as a cover picture features this month as a motif it will complement the article (see page 8).

Ed.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Feb. 3: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Emily Nisbet, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Please note this is the FIRST Saturday in February. Admission £6.
- 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** dances from Aridaia, Central Macedonia taught by Dimitris Triandafyllidis at the UPS Club, Inst. of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG. £30 (including refreshments). Cheques payable to 'Helios' 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. Admission £6.
- Mar. 16-19: 3 NIGHT INT. 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. 14: BALKANPLUS** a party evening with Balkanplus following the first day of a weekend workshop with Mitko Petrov, your MC will be Brian Dowsett and will be held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £10 (for those attending the weekend workshop there will be a weekend ticket deal including the party available)
- S.I **Apr. 21-22: VLADICA AND SASHA** teach Serbian folk dances in Sheffield. Sat. day course & evening dance £35; Sun. day course £25; Weekend package £50. For details & booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. Or see www.balkanfolkdance.org.
- 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 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 and Stella Wentworth + guided walks. Robin and Judy Morris 01564773482 - 07966785172 robinnimbo@aol.com or <http://sifd.org/events/sifdevents.php>
- S.I **May 4 - May 7: EASTBOURNE INT. F. F.** see page 11



Vintage Class

Discussions at the AGM revealed that nowadays the majority of linked groups and classes are those doing dances from a single country or type of dance, e.g. Balkan, Scandinavian, historical etc. Here is some news from our outpost in Bromley. We seem to be a rare breed of class as we offer dances of all kinds. I try to cover a wide range of dances and styles - from Romania to Japan, from Wales to Israel - anything I have learned from a reliable teacher.



The Bromley International Class has been in existence since 1973, starting as an Adult Education Class. A valiant band of survivors, including four founder members, still meets and dances International.

I did an anonymous collection of the ages in our present class and was amused to find that the oldest is 90 [91 in December] and the baby of the class had her 50th birthday this year. Ages range down as –

90, 85, 84, 82[two] 80 [three] 78, 77, 75, 70, 68 [two] 66, 65, 57, 50.



I heard recently that a television company was amazed to discover that a local U3A group was still playing table tennis after age 50! We all know that exercise keeps you young, so let's shout about it!

Some of us did a short demonstration at a local church for their Holiday at Home. They collect elderly people who don't go away for holidays, and provide activities and hot meals for a week. I attach photos to show us performing, and then bringing the Elderly [some younger than we were] into a final Makedonsko. Some of you may recognise Shirley Rogers who was in several SIFD classes years ago and Mary Fergar who used to be in Zivko Firfov. Here's to dancing into Eternity! Shalom

Fiona Howarth



What Makes A Good Folkdance Teacher

It is some time since there has been a Teachers' Course, so perhaps the following article by Karl Klenk (first published in 2002) will be of interest to some dance leaders. Ed.

It is always extremely illuminating to watch other dance-leaders at work. Everyone involved in teaching of any kind makes use of their own personal method to various degrees of success. Through the comparison of various teachers, it is evident that no one method is the only correct one. Anyone who is teaching folk dancing always does so in accordance with their own gifts and leanings, to a greater or lesser degree, with confidence and thoroughness, with more or with less verve, emotion and infectious enthusiasm. As a result, those being taught are, to a varying extent, satisfied at the end of each lesson.

Many successful dancers think they are sufficiently well prepared and even predestined to be teachers simply because they can themselves dance well and are familiar with a number of "difficult" dances. But this is not nearly enough. There is also a need for methodological, pedagogical, didactic and psychological knowledge and ability. When foreign folkdances in particular are being taught, the teacher must be able to give the most important factual information about the dances, such as their land of origin, their region, the character of the dance and so on. Sometimes the occasion giving rise to the dance is also known (work or profession, celebration, season, birthday, wedding, jubilee etc.). If foreign dances are being accompanied by song, the teacher cannot be expected to understand every foreign language but he or she should be able to give a general idea about the kind of material the song refers to (satire, spring or love song etc.). If nothing is said about such things, the teaching is bound to be deficient. The giving of this information is important, but should not be done in over-extensive form. After all, the participants are there to dance and not to listen to lectures.

A good dance-teacher knows how to discover the potential of his class and assess them accurately, so as to give them a real feeling of success not only by choosing the type and sequence of the dances,

but also by the careful and interesting way in which information is conveyed. A good teacher knows how to control the pace of a dance session and does not rush through things, is more concerned about the receptive ability of the participants than his or her own personal reputation as a gifted figure in the folkdance movement. He or she does not overdo explanations and always speaks so that everyone can hear and understand them, not simply those who happen to be standing in the line of the teacher's voice. This is particularly important in large halls with large numbers of participants.

It is also important not to try to cover too much at one time, not more than one figure or part of a figure, and what has been explained must be practised immediately until everyone has grasped the new element and feels confident about performing it. Good results can often be obtained by changing partners frequently.

As a rule, dance-teachers talk far too much and give long explanations of the whole first figure, and then without pause go on to the second one and even sometimes the third! The teacher can, of course, visualize the whole thing perfectly well because they know the dance, but people learning the dance cannot form any picture of the dance as they listen, and all the talk is point-less and of no help.

Practice is far more important than talk. We should observe the general rule that we should explain only the things which are most important and vital, while avoiding what is self-explanatory. So, we should talk less and practise more! If all the participants have heard and understood what has been said, and if all the parts of the dance and finally the whole dance has been learnt in practice and repeated several times, there should be no need of any questions to follow.

If the introduction and practice have been effective, no-one will ask questions. Only if the dance-leader raises doubts about the quality of the teaching, will he or she need to ask, "Is everything clear?" or "Has anyone any questions?" If the teaching has been effective, it is certain that nobody will have a question to ask.

Everybody will have understood everything and will have mastered the dance that was taught. If someone should nevertheless ask a question without being invited to do so, then the teacher must in no circumstances give a kind of private lesson in the corner where this person happens to be. If you do, other participants will start to chat among themselves or, what is worse, they will be annoyed that they are not sharing the explanation. The point raised by the individual must necessarily be explained carefully once more to everyone.

And now, just a few self-evident points. The teacher should never correct a single person alone. If an obvious error is spotted, the correct form must be practised with all participants. Further, the teacher must know the dance being taught in every detail. Only in the most exceptional circumstances should it be necessary to look up anything in the official dance description. Constant reference to dance notes indicates that the teacher has not mastered the dance. Naturally, the teacher must be friendly and patient and never appear too negatively schoolmasterly, and he or she should always be punctual.

Dance-teachers are just like all other teachers. There are those whose skilful teaching creates one successful experience after another for their classes, but there are also those who produce such experiences only for a few specially gifted people and for others just a feeling of inferiority. Too much is often demanded of those learning as a result of lack of precise and patient explanation and pushing people on too quickly. Worst of all, some teachers explain and practise some step or sequence of steps and then simply declare, "Now you all know how the basic step goes", and go on to demonstrate, for their own pleasure and to show all kinds of complicated variants. The person still learning the dance and who still has some difficulty with the basic steps, sees these brilliant performances by the teacher and fails to follow them. This makes him or her feel small and incapable, which can destroy any pleasure in folk dancing and even make people give up this wonderful activity altogether. A striking number of basically effective teachers succumb, on occasion but only too frequently to this temptation to show how excellent their dance skills are.

In the year 2002 I shall be 90 years old. I have been learning incidentally but regularly new native Swiss and foreign folk dances since 1930. So, over about 70 years, I have got to know countless folkdance teachers. There are only a few professional folkdance leaders who have benefited from methodological, didactic, pedagogical and psychological training. Their style of teaching is markedly more positive and helpful than that of amateurs and part-time teachers.



Eastbourne Int. Folkdance Festival joins SIFD!

After several years of working closely with SIFD on a dance programme that appeals to committed "International" dancers and also encourages other experienced dancers to try a wider variety of folk dance, Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival has joined SIFD!

As a UK folk festival with a full "Round the world" day and evening programme, our aim was to move away from the previous "festival inside a festival" concept by totally integrating European into the main programme and making it easy for all dancers to move between genres! Using the squarer, more dance-friendly sports hall at the Primary School in 2017 gave a cosier feel, and dancers mingled better as they moved around the site.

If you've not been to Eastbourne in the last five years we invite you to give it a twirl in 2018, and to bring newcomers who may be surprised by the cheerfulness and enthusiasm for dance throughout the festival.

We're putting the finishing touches to the Eastern European element of the programme which will be on our website by the time you receive this newsletter, meanwhile here's a taste of highlights for EIFF 2018!

continued overleaf >

We know you will enjoy the beautiful costumes and footwork of 15C Italian dances by Renaissance Footnotes, who offer opportunities to try dances that can be as sedate or lively as you are. Their excellent musicians, Passamezzo were recently on TV in the Elizabeth I series.

The colourful and energetic Gog Magog Molly dancers from Cambridge return because you loved their high spirited dancing and lively conversations so much.

Maggie Daniel hopes to get our feet tapping to Irish Set Dance's jigs, reels, polkas and hornpipes; workshops with basic footwork and moves for dancers new to the genre can quickly join in. (I've always wanted to try this, so hopefully escape from the office!)

We aim to entice the local French dance community with a Friday evening Bal with favourites Herve and Rachel, and they will also be leading dance and song workshops during the weekend.

EIFF is a friendly festival and no event requires you to bring a partner. Returners and newcomers are welcome.

Eastbourne accommodation suits all pockets, and the on-site cafe and sensibly timed meal and comfort breaks means that you don't need to rush about, and can spend time socialising with old and new dancing friends.

Friday 4 - Monday 7 May, tickets from Eventbrite see www.eiff.org.uk

Season, Day and Young People's tickets are available.

Maureen Knight

(Admin and artiste TLC) on behalf of EIFF Directors



Missing Words

- "Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the **** of the Dance, said he,"
(Sydney Carter)
- "There may be trouble ahead
But while there's .. etc.
Let's ***** and dance."
(Diana Krall)
- "Dance of the ***** fairy"
(Hoffman/Tchaikovsky)
- "A Dance to the Music of ***** "
(Poussin/Powell)
- "Dances with ***** "
(Kevin Costner award-winning film)
- "Dancing ***** "
(AbbA Hit)
- ***** Dances
(Bartok/Brahms/Liszt)
- "**** Dance"
(David Bowie Song and Album)
- "Dance of the ***** "
(Oscar Wilde/Richard Strauss)
- "On the coast of Coromandel,
Dance they to the tunes of *****,"
(Osbert Sitwell)

Bourree	Limbo
Branle	Mazurka
Cacak	Minuet
Congo	Polka
Fandango	Polonaise
Galop	Quadrille
Hambo	Salsa
Hop	VavaVadmal
Hopak	Waltz
Hora	Windmill
Krakowiak	

Clues (Not in Order)



Word Search

P	O	L	A	G	Z	U	K	A	C	A	C	P	R
V	O	G	N	O	C	I	F	G	O	U	O	N	L
C	G	L	O	N	A	O	B	M	A	H	S	A	A
E	L	G	O	N	S	B	A	C	B	O	P	F	M
E	J	I	P	N	L	S	X	Z	R	R	P	O	D
L	K	P	M	F	A	D	I	L	A	A	O	O	A
L	L	R	W	B	S	I	Q	I	N	S	L	G	V
I	L	M	A	J	O	V	S	G	L	D	K	N	A
R	I	L	T	K	H	T	E	E	E	L	A	A	V
D	M	U	E	B	O	U	R	R	E	E	P	D	A
A	D	E	U	F	U	W	A	L	T	Z	O	N	V
U	N	Z	N	A	V	X	I	Z	H	O	P	A	K
Q	I	D	I	H	L	D	E	A	F	H	I	F	M
H	W	Y	M	M	A	Z	U	R	K	A	B	N	O

Merry Christmas to All - J & S G

Bourrée Carrée de Châtre

France



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



There are no interesting observations on **Bourrée Carrée de Châtre** in this issue.

Sacz Krzyzok from Poland will be up for discussion next month; at the very least someone in the know could supply the diacritics and tips on pronunciation. Don't forget - if you harbour any memories about it - pass them on. **Ed.**



Balkanplus

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 13th January in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm. MC will be Meryll Abraham. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton

Registered Charity Number 284509

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 JANUARY

- S.I **Sunday 7th NEW YEAR BALKAN DANCE PARTY**, Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR from 11.30 to 16.30. Cost £5. Details from Greg Boyd: 07810 181273 / gregboyd99@aol.com or Janet King on 0162957065 or j.king194@btinternet.com
- S.I **Saturday 13th BALKANPLUS** - see page 14
- S.I **Saturday 27th 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.; children under 4: free. Wear a costume if you would like to. For more information: sallylhumphrey@gmail.com or charlotte@haenlein.co.uk
- S.I **Saturday 20th ARMENIAN DANCE DAY** with three teachers: Dalila Heath, Vardon Haryan and Chrisandra Harris. 11.00 – 5.00pm. at The Secret Studio, 16 Moore Rd, Mapperley, Notts, NG3 6EF. Contribution £25 before 30th December, £30 afterwards. For more details and to book contact Chrisandra@tesco.net or Tel. 0115 9554962



*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.*



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