

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

# SIFD NEWS



# February 2018

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

The Year of the Dog arrives later this month - hence the front cover. I have used the centre part of the logo of the group Kitka (see page 9) this month as a motif.

There are four articles from the Committee which start on page 5.

Are there any German speakers able to look at some dance instructions?

All I've come up with is a slightly insane online translation. (page 14)

**Ed.**



## **SIFD February Dance**

I have discussed the monthly Sunday night dances at Primrose Hill Community Centre with the committee at their last meeting and it was agreed that:

- 1 The dances will continue this year (every month except August).
- 2 We can use the upstairs hall.
- 3 The charge will be £10 for members, £12 for non-members.
- 4 The new time will be 6.45pm-9.30pm. (Hall available from 6.30pm)

The next dance at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN, will be on Sunday 4th February. The MC's will be Brenda & Phil Steventon. Please come along and join us for an enjoyable evening of dancing. See you there.

**Brenda Steventon**



## **Balkanplus**

The February Balkanplus will be held on the 3rd February in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm. MC will be Emily Nisbet.

Please note this is the FIRST Saturday in February. Admission £6.

**Maureen Felton**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **March 4: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** at Primrose Hill Community Centre , 29 Hopkinsons Place, Off Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. At 6.45pm.
- S.I **Mar. 4: GREEK FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP** 11am.-5pm. Aridaia, Central Macedonia dances 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 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 **Mar. 24: INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP** see page 11
- S.I **Apr. 8: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** at Primrose Hill Community Centre , 29 Hopkinsons Place, Off Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. At 6.45pm.
- 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](mailto:cathy_meunier@hotmail.com). Website: [www.balkanfolkdance.org](http://www.balkanfolkdance.org).

- S.I **Apr. 27-30: GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Fri.pm - Mon.pm)  
 (near Alcester, Warwickshire) International Folk Dancing with a special guest teacher from the Netherlands. For further information see website: [www.greatalnefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk) or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722. see page 11
- 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 and 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.  
 ([mrdauid.mckie@btinternet.com](mailto:mrdauid.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](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com) or <http://sifd.org/events/sifdevents.php>
- S.I **May 4 - May 7: EASTBOURNE INT. FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL**  
 see page 10
- S.I **May 12: BALKANPLUS** MC: Bob Robinson, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6



*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.*



### **Publicising an event?**

As well as sending details to the Editor for inclusion in the News, please don't forget to send them as well to Dalila Heath for inclusion on the SIFD Website.

## **Committee Meeting Report**

This is a report on the meeting held in January 2018

### **Finance**

The Treasurer advised that preparation of the 2017 Accounts is under-way. It was confirmed that since the previous meeting a goodwill grant had been made to Dance Around the World, as agreed in AGM. Discussions with Eastbourne International Folk Festival regarding possible SIFD funding are still ongoing.

### **Membership**

There are two new Affiliated groups – Eastbourne International Folk Festival and Balfolk Bristol. The Committee are looking forward to receiving the report from the subgroup formed at the 2016 AGM to consider membership structure.

### **Publicity**

The current position on the SIFD Website Development was discussed and actioned. The Electronic Mailing List, which was briefly used a few years ago, will be revived and expanded, for use in publicising SIFD events. Groups will be asked to encourage their non-SIFD members to put themselves on the mailing list.

Regarding the SIFD logo, the colours used on it were recently revised, to be in line the colour scheme on the redesigned website in due course. Groups are to be encouraged to display the logo on their own publicity.

Current use of other websites to publicise the SIFD was discussed, with a view to ensuring that we do this as efficiently as possible.

It was agreed that the SIFD should have a new banner, in a size easy to display. Quotations are to be obtained.

### **SIFD Dances and Courses**

The financial result for the Dances in 2017 – as expected a sizeable loss – was discussed, together with the reaction to changes “tried out” at the January Dance. It was agreed that in future the expense payments to the SIFD Band would be financed from SIFD Funds, as official support and recognition of the importance of the Band as our live music resource, and that we would therefore no longer expect this expenditure to be covered by door receipts. Door receipts would therefore be required to cover only the hall rent.

Some of the money-saving changes tried out at the January Dance were reversed. It is hoped that under the new arrangements the Dances will break-even.

A full Daycourse programme remains on hold. But the possibility of a Daycourse led by groups for other groups was discussed. This will be looked into.

Initial planning for the inexpensive residential SIFD-sponsored event is underway, but the Committee learned that the event has been deferred until 2019.

### **Arising from the AGM**

Discussions have been held with Friday Feet, regarding how best the SIFD can assist them.

It was agreed that a full Equipment review would most conveniently be carried out in the autumn, at the time of the annual PAT test.

### **Other matters**

It is hoped that the first Digital Archive Memory Stick update will take place soon.

The SIFD has registered under the Data Protection Act.



## **Groups and Classes please help.....**

The report on the January Committee Meeting mentions that the SIFD is making a new and improved Mailing List.

SIFD members and group and class representatives who have supplied the membership department with an email address should already be on the List.

However we know that there are many dancers in our groups and classes who are not SIFD members. We would like to be able to make information about our Dance events etc available to as many interested people as possible, and would really like to be able to reach the non-members. So please .....encourage those interested to email the Society at [mail@sifd.org](mailto:mail@sifd.org) with “please include on mailing list”.

## **New colour scheme for the SIFD logo**

The colour scheme for the SIFD logo, (the crossed dancing feet), was recently revised to be in line with the colour scheme chosen for the redesigned website which will be with us in due course.

Groups and Classes are encouraged to display the logo on their own publicity. If you would like an electronic copy of the new version please email Richard Mellish.

Hopefully the new version can be included in the next colour issue of the News.



## **Balkanplus W/shops with Mitko Petrov & Lee Otterholt**

A reminder that 2018 will be a momentous year for anyone seeking to expand their dance repertoire.

Both Mitko Petrov (April) and Lee Otterholt (July) have programmes to satisfy the most ravenous of appetites and both will offer the odd tasty morsel from beyond the Balkans.

Mitko is, of course, a firm favourite with Balkanplus regulars having introduced instant classics like Melnishko. Be aware that early bird prices apply up to the end of this month.

Lee's visit will be his first to the UK. He and his wife Hilde are major figures on the American recreational dance scene and they come with a full bag of offerings. Together, the workshops give a double reward for Balkanplus season ticket holders this year. Full details of both events are in the Dates for your Diary pages, or visit [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)

Our booking office is open for business.

**Brian Dowsett**





## Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group



As one of the latest groups to sign up to SIFD, we thought we would let you know a bit about ourselves.

We are a small group of about a dozen regulars, who have been dancing together for about five years, but only recently formally established ourselves as a group with a constitution, a committee and a bank account.

We have been performing in public for four years now, at international festivals in Gravesend, Maidstone, Sittingbourne, Tunbridge Wells and Rochester. We have a professional teacher, Rummy, and perform dances from all the different regions in Bulgaria. Our costumes come from a supplier in Bulgaria.

Although some of our Bulgarian members were familiar with their folk heritage, and knew some dances, this was not the case for everyone, so we welcome anyone who is interested in learning the dances of Bulgaria. In addition we are looking for musicians to join us.

We meet most Saturday mornings, 10.30 – 12 noon, at the Matthews Memorial Hall, Castle Avenue, Rochester ME1 2DU. If you want to know more why not email us on [kitkabfg@gmail.com](mailto:kitkabfg@gmail.com) You can be sure of a warm welcome.

The photographs show us at various venues.

**Sue Haydock**  
Secretary, Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group.

## **Eastbourne International Folk Festival 4th-7th May**

The festival is fast approaching and we have now lined-up our International teachers - Dalila Heath, Maggie O'Regan and Jill Bransby who will be offering a wide variety of workshops in the Sports Hall. The Friday night will be a request evening, Saturday evening will be MCed by Jill with Cloudbust providing live music, and Sunday will be a Balkan evening with Maggie assisted by Dalila.

Unfortunately, the reduced funds now available have not allowed us to have the originally advertised teachers from abroad. The current team of directors are all stepping-down after this year's festival and are seeking replacements for future festivals. We will also be standing-down from our role as International Dance organisers and seek offers from anyone willing to take this on.

Offers of assistance with stewarding are also welcome - please contact Isabel Castle on 07531 142321 if you can help.

The future of the festival will depend on having a new team of directors and needs good attendance this year to ensure the survival of the festival in future years - otherwise there will be no festival in 2019! Please visit [www.eiff.org.uk](http://www.eiff.org.uk) where you can book your tickets on-line using the Eventbrite booking link.

We look forward to seeing you at Eastbourne!

**Ron & Jean Wilks**



Dear Janet,

Thank you to Joan and Simon Guest for the puzzles. They gave us something to think about as well as enjoy.

What happened to The Polka / Schottische debate? No-one has taken it up so far. Surely I did not quell questions?

All the best for 2018 to you and all SIFD folk who remember me.

Yours sincerely,

**Ruth Coton**



## **Great Alne Long Weekend**

Friday 27th - Monday 30th April 2018

The Long Weekend runs from Friday 27th - Monday 30th April, and will as usual include a mixture of folk dancing, singing, handbells, walking and cycling, and doubtless several other activities.

Music for the evening dances is being provided this year by Jaige and Adam from North America. See Diary Dates or the Great Alne Long Weekend website for further details.

**Karen Walford**

Great Alne Folk Long Weekend Bookings Co-ordinator



## **Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group**

March 24<sup>th</sup> Come, smile with us.

Grangewood Methodist Church Grangewood Rd Wollaton, Notts NG8 2SJ  
10.30 a.m. –3.0 p.m. Tea, Coffee available. Please bring packed lunch. No partners needed,

Further info [www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk](http://www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk) or 0115 9171831 Gill Morral or [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)

Day course £10.00 ½ day course £7.00 Dance 10.30–1.00 lunch 1.00–2.00p.m. dance 2 p.m.-4.30p.m.

Anne Leach is an excellent teacher who has recently led workshops in Canada. She will share some of her dances from around the world. It will be a mix of partner and non partner dances from many countries.

**Gill Morral**

## **Report from the Zomerfestival at Zevenhuizen, NL**

Three of us from Ipswich attended the Zomerfestival of Balkan dance in 2017. The festival has been running four years and is essentially the recreation by Sibylle Helmer of Silviu and Ersin's Balkan Festival which was great and ran at Zetten for over 20 years until 2011 but even better!

As in previous years there were five high end dance teachers (plus singing teachers) with parallel sessions. About 160 participants. Five hours of dance tuition each teaching day. Most dance classes were to live music. Then three or more hours of lively dancing, mostly to larger bands, in the evenings. Evenings were not of the UK type of stop and walk through easy steps or following trivial dances but full on complex dances which, as long as at least one person knows, everyone follows instantly. And most were fast. I love that combined physical and mental flow. So did the others there as most danced most dances. The atmosphere was amazing with over a hundred people, including us, doing fun complex energetic Balkan dances contiguously. I miss that so much in the UK.

To be specific, there were five main dance teachers. Wij and Karel taught Macedonian dances including some very staccato macho ones I really liked in contrast to what we normally do as Macedonian here. Vladimir Tanasijvec taught Serbian; some of you are used to his entertaining teaching in the UK along with Sasha the accordionist - those who have heard him know he is virtually a full orchestra himself but this time members of the other bands volunteered to join in with Sasha too! Casar Bilk, a young very lively professional dancer who has previously taught us Black Sea dances at Zevenhuizen this time taught us Bulgarian dances. Evangelos Tsagnos taught us Greek dances in a nicely educationally different way: similar basic dances but from different regions with stylistic differences. Dominike Karantzounis taught Romanian in the opposite extreme with a stage performance medley suite of dances.

It was both educational and great fun! And good for fitness :-). What I really don't understand is why only four people from the UK attended (other than one other regular attendee from London who was unavailable at that time).

It was a Balkan dance experience above any available in 2017 in the UK in combination of teaching intensity, lively enthusiasm and large scale Balkan dance party atmosphere nightly. It was advertised in SIFD News. It was easy to get to by train -ferry combined "Dutch Flyer" tickets from the south east of UK, including London.

Between my attending of the annual event and being asked to write it up at the SIFD AGM, there has been some bad news. Unfortunately the numbers of attendees were too low to make it economically viable (even though the organisers and helpers were volunteers) so 2017 was the last year. Now it is dead, again. Those of you who did not take up the opportunity of going so easily to so wonderful an event have missed it.

**Andrew Hardwick**



## **Chinese New Year 2018 in London**

18 February - Celebrate the Year of the Dog in London, with the biggest Chinese New Year celebrations outside Asia.

Enjoy a colourful parade, free stage performances and traditional Chinese food, and to wish each other "Xin Nian Kuai Le" (Happy New Year in Mandarin) or "San Nin Faa Lok" (in Cantonese).

The London celebrations are taking place on 18 February, which is the Sunday following the date of the Chinese New Year (16 February).

Watch colourful floats and more than 30 teams take part in the vibrant Chinese New Year parade, which kicks off at 10am with a Dragon and Lion dance in Charing Cross Road, before snaking its way through Chinatown. Walk down to Trafalgar Square from 12pm for the main stage performances, featuring traditional Chinese dance and music shows, contemporary hip-hop acts and an exciting line-up of artists from China.

Don't miss the pyrotechnic display which lights up Trafalgar Square to mark the end of the festivities.

# Sacz Krzyzok

Poland  
Melody is Przebeig Tanca

A  
D7 G D7 G D7 G D7 G  
2nd and 3rd FASTER  
B  
D7 G D7 G D7 G C D7 G  
C  
26 G7 C G C D7 G G7 C G7  
C G C D7 G G7 C

## “Wilf Horrocks’ Collection”

Nothing to report on **Sacz Krzyzok**; **To Ting** from Denmark will be up for discussion next month. Don't forget - if you harbour any memories about it - pass them on. **Ed.**



Dear Janet,

In March 2016 you printed a photo of Austrian dancers (*reprinted on back page. Ed.*) and asked if anyone knew which dance they are doing. I remembered at last to send it to my Viennese friend, who promptly visited the Volkslieder archives, where the lady in charge remembered dancing it in her youth. The dance is Agattanz and she has photocopied the instructions (all in German, of course) and the music.

Agattanz was popular at weddings in the 1930s in Thiersee. There are 15 figures with diagrams in the version sent, with titles such as Button, Bridge and Star. IF each couple led each figure, the dance could last for an hour!

All best wishes for the New Year,

**Janet Mason**

## **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*  
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Follow us on Twitter @*sifdorg*

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



## WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

- S.I **Saturday 3rd BALKANPLUS** - see page 3
- S.I **Sunday 4th SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- S.I **Wed. 7-Mon.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*
- Sunday 18th CHINESE NEW YEAR** see page 13
- S.I **Friday 23rd RAINMAKERS' FRENCH DANCE EVENING** with live music from DanseHerts Musicians at The Parish Hall, St Michaels, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. 8.00 – 10.45 PM. Cost £5.00.  
Contact: 01462 454210 or 01462 457791, if you need more information.



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