

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



May 2018

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

I have been asked to clarify the 'advertising' criteria for the News: any SIFD member and any SIFD group is invited to send a notice of any event being planned if it would be of interest to members of our Society. It will also be listed in the Diary section for the six months preceding it if it takes place in Britain.

Organisations that are not part of the SIFD can send information about events which might be of interest which we will publish if space allows. No payments for advertisements are accepted.



There was a note and photo about a doll in the last issue - unfortunately the email address for Helen was left out; it is *helendebray@gmail.com*



Folk Dancer Online the magazine of the Ontario Folk Dance Assn. may be viewed on the OFDA website:
<http://ofda.ca/wp/magazine/>



There are (official publicity) photos from the Llangollen Eisteddfod on the front and back cover.

The Woodvale logo this month - they celebrated their 50th Anniversary last month.

Ed.



SIFD May Dance

The next dance with live music from the SIFD Band at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN, will be on Sunday 13th May.

The April dance was a great success with more than 20 dancers. The May dance will be lead by Jeanette Hull so bring along your dancing shoes!! Time will be 6.45pm-9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm). See you there.

Brenda Steventon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jun.9: BALKAN DANCE DAY WITH CATHY MEUNIER**
10.30-4-30 at Unstone Community Centre, 20 Crow Lane,
Unstone, Derbys. S18 4AL. Details and to book contact Gill
01246 410020 or ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com
- S.I **Jun.9: BALKANPLUS MC:** Fiona Howarth, held in Trefusis,
Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. £6.
- Jul. 3-8 LLANGOLLEN EISTEDDFOD** the Traditional Folk
Dance Competition to be on Friday 6th July. *international-
eisteddfod.co.uk/en/*
- S.I **Jul. 21-22: LEE OTTERHOLT BALKANPLUS W/SHOPS**
Dances from the Balkans & Beyond at Cecil Sharp House.
Workshops: 10.30am - 4.30pm Sat. Party: 7 - 10.30pm
Workshops: Sat. £40 (£30) Sun. £30 (£20), Party £10 W/e deal:
£70 (£50) Early bird prices (in brackets) until end of May
Further discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Tickets:
Please send cheque payable to Balkanplus with SAE to: Maureen
Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG For more
information visit www.balkanplus.org.uk Tel. Brian 01992
582717 or Maureen 01473 272256
- S.I **Jul. 21: BALKANPLUS** - A Balkanplus party evening with
MC Brian Dowsett & live music from Dunav, following the first
day of a weekend workshop with Lee Otterholt held in Trefusis,
Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm.
Admission £10. Please NOTE this is the 3rd weekend in July.
- Aug. 5.-9. MACHOL EUROPA** at University of Warwick -
Israeli Dance Institute. from £429. tel: 020 8209 3155
info@IDI.ORG.UK
- Aug. 24.-27. SOUTH DOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL**
see page 5

S.I **Sep.8: SIFD AGM, WORKSHOP & DANCE** with Levent Ketenci at Pulborough Village Hall, West Sussex RH20 2BP. Sat. day £30, supper £10, evening dance £8; Sun. morning £15; weekend £45 (excl. supper) available until Aug.1st. please make cheques payable to B.R.I.D.E. info: Janet Douglas (page 2)

Nov. 2-4 SKINT 2018 at Ashover, Derbys. S45 0BA. A low cost collaborative weekend of traditional European music and dance, accessible to all from beginners to experts.
www.skintdance.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.*



South Downs Mini Dance Festival

August 24th- 27th at Plumpton College, East Sussex.

South Downs Mini Dance Festival offering a mix of dances including International Folk Dance and Circle Dance. Sessions will be led mainly by local teachers, with general dancing in the evenings. Early morning Tai Chi may well be offered as well as singing, learning songs to accompany dances in the final session.

3 days full board. £180. Fully booked, but waiting list opened together with Mailing List for 2019. Contact Sue Kewley, suekewley@outlook.com or 01903 744929

Sue Kewley



Committee Meeting Report

This is a report on the meeting held in April 2018.

Finance

The Treasurer advised that the 2018 Accounts are now with the Independent Examiner for his Report. A Gift Aid claim based on subscription income in 2017 has been submitted and a repayment received. There was discussion on support for groups, and assistance has been given to the Eastbourne Festival.

GDPR (General Data Protection Regulations)

The Committee reviewed the impact of the new Regulations on the SIFD, and what SIFD must do. Members will be contacted asking for the required consent to hold membership information.

Publicity

The up-to-date position on the Website redevelopment was discussed. With reference to the soon-to-be revised electronic Mailing List the Committee are pleased that there has been a response to the request to group and class leaders for their help in encouraging their own non-SIFD members to email and ask to be included.

Quotations have been obtained for production of the new SIFD Banner. Work on its design is now in hand.

SIFD Dances and Courses

As announced hall bookings have been made at Primrose Hill Community Centre for the Sunday Dances for the rest of 2018.

The Committee regret that the proposed SIFD-sponsored residential event in early 2019 will not now take place due to circumstances outside SIFD's control.

New Equipment

A full equipment review will be carried out later in the year. But meanwhile consideration of immediate requirements has resulted in the purchase of a new CD player with a variable speed facility.

Other

Routine reports on Membership, Publicity and Administrative matters were received.

The Committee are pleased that the Digital Archive Memory Stick Update is now underway.

SIFD will shortly be responding to a survey by OneDance UK (of which it is a member), highlighting the difficulties faced in bringing overseas teachers to the UK.



Teacher Development Course – an Update

As originally announced in the SIFD News in 2015 the plan for this course was to hold a series of weekend and day sessions over a two year cycle, with modules covering all aspects of teaching folk dance, and aimed at anyone wanting to work on their teaching and social dance leadership skills.

Following an enthusiastic response to the announcement of proposals the first session was held at the last Summer School in Swansea.

Regrettably, however, the programme has not to date proceeded as initially hoped because it has proved too difficult to co-ordinate participants, venues and dates.



This article (sent in by Roy Clarke) was first published in the SIFD News in 1958.

Instruments of Folk Music

By Ivan Kachulev - Scientific collaborator at the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences.

In a series of articles we intend to acquaint our readers with particulars of our folk songs, dances and instruments. Our folk instruments, which are original both in construction and timbre, are significant in the life of the countryside. They are used at festivals, family gatherings and dances. In recent years they have played an important part in our amateur artistic programmes.

During visits paid to foreign countries by our State Folk Song and Dance Company and other folk groups our folk instruments have aroused great interest, because of their specific timbre and the original way in which they are played.

Bulgarian folk instruments are mostly made by the players themselves with the aid of very simple tools. They can be divided into three groups, according to the tone they produce. The wind instruments are flutes (kavals), whistles, long whistles, double whistles, bagpipes and clarinets (zurlas), the string instruments are rebecks, fiddles and mandolins and the percussion instruments include various sizes of drums.

While most of the singing is done by women, playing instruments is a man's job exclusively. Small boys, who start out as shepherds and cattle herds, learn how to play the simple whistle by imitating their elders and later pass on to the real folk instruments. Growing up with their instruments they become fine masters.

Folk instruments are not evenly spread throughout the country; some are found in every part of Bulgaria, others have survived only in certain districts. But even the most common instruments are not distributed equally. The occurrence of folk instruments varies according to the geography and mode of life in the districts. Thus, for instance, the flute and the high "djura" bagpipe, known throughout the country, are typical instruments of Thrace and the Dobrudja, while the small pipe, the ordinary and long whistles

which are found in every part of the country are most common in North-West Bulgaria. The rebeck is typical of Thrace, the Dobrudja, the Balkan Range and West Bulgaria. The mandolin is a favourite instrument in the Pirin region and the large, low kaba bagpipe is found only in the Rhodopes. The double whistle is popular in West and South-West Bulgaria, where singing in "two" voices is also frequent.

The Kaval. The flute (kaval) produces a warm and expressive tone and has a high timbre register. It is the most popular of all folk instruments. This instrument is made in two types: the one-pipe kaval and the three-pipe kaval, the cylinders being inserted in one another. The three-pipe kaval is made of cornel, plum, apricot or other hard wood by master turners. These instruments are distinguished by their fine workmanship and rich decoration. Incrustations of goat or staghorn are applied by means of red wax and resin at the sides and the upper end of the pipe. These bone ornaments hold the two parts of the pipe together better and are a fine decoration at the same time.

The three-pipe kavals are exquisite in line and form and remind one of reeds. They are about 60 to 85 cm. long. Similar to wind instruments, clarinet and wood horns, they come in several scales with different heights of tone and the quality of the tone-scale obtained through small octave below the staff. The middle pipe has eight holes, seven in front and one behind for the thumb; the third cylinder has four resonator holes, called by the folk players "Devil's holes"; they determine the volume of tone and the quality of the tone-scale obtained through the finger holes.

They have the largest tone register among existing folk instruments. By blowing through the opening and making various combinations with the fingers, one may produce a chromatic tone scale in three octaves. It is, therefore, possible to play on the kaval the most complicated drawn-out melodies as well as very lively songs. The melodies may be most finely played down to the most lyrical folk instrument, with the greatest technical possibilities. These qualities are well expressed in folk songs, as the following quotations show:

"The kaval is playing and talking...",
"Like honey the tune is sung by the kaval."

At night its sound carries with the breeze, and on Sundays the village folk whirl in a lively round dance to its music. In the evening kaval players show their art at working parties, where singing and playing contests are organized. The kaval is above all a solo instrument. Shepherds like to play it a lot. Among the wind instruments of the modern folk orchestra, the kaval holds a foremost place.

The whistle is a small one-pipe kaval with seven finger holes. In length it ranges from 30 to 50cm. Its tone volume takes up two octaves and is an octave higher than the kaval. If compared to modern West European instruments in height and character of tone, the kaval corresponds to the flute and the whistle to the piccolo.

(from "Bulgaria Today", October 1957).



Some Balkan Folk Dance events now booking

Bulgarian Folk Dances with Nikolay Svetkov

Immensely popular and highly regarded teacher of traditional Bulgarian folkdance, Nikolay Svetkov comes from Pirin. He will teach dances from all over Bulgaria.

Weekend of 6th / 7th October 2018 Braithwaite, Cumbria

Saturday day course and evening dance £30

Sunday day course £20

Weekend package £40

Saturday evening social dance £5

Rivieradance! 2019

World renowned folk dance teachers: Yves Moreau (Bulgarian & Balkan folk dance), France Bourque Moreau (International folk dance), Cristian Florescu & Sonia Dion (Romanian folk dance). As well as lots of dancing, there are instrumental, singing and drumming workshops, opportunities for walking and sightseeing

and delicious food. Rivieradance! Is much more than just dance!

Wednesday 6th – Monday 11th February 2019 Torquay.

5-night residential dance course: from £425

3-night residential instrumental course: from £205

Non-residential instrumental course: £50

Dances from Northern Greece with Petros Selkos

Petros Selkos is amongst the most well-known and well-loved folk dance teachers from Greek Macedonia. He says he will bring us some of his most beautiful traditional dances from Northern Greece. For something different, he will also teach his ever popular Hassapiko.

6th – 7th April 2019. Cliff College Calver, Derbyshire

Residential dance course: £205

Non residential dance course (including meals): £115

More information on www.balkanfolkdance.org
cathy_meunier@hotmail.com tel 017687 73117

Cathy Meunier



Dancing in Derbyshire

Yesterday, 14th April, Lorna Ramsden and Lynda Shaw from Loidis came to Derbyshire and provided us with a great day of dancing. Ian Willson accompanied some of the dances on his accordion. This was the first time that they had led a day course. They are very accomplished dance teachers as those who know them can acknowledge. They not only taught the dances but provided background information about the origins of the dances. A display of pictures also helped us appreciate the costumes of the areas the dances came from.

Many thanks to them. A great team!

Janet King



Lee Otterholt's Balkanplus Workshops on 21st/22nd July

The day after we return from Iliana's tour of Bulgaria Lee flies in from Los Angeles for the workshops at Cecil Sharp House. Sometimes it just happens that way. Lee himself will be flying on to Bulgaria to lead a tour soon after his London workshops. Folk dancing in the fast lane you could say.

A major figure in the American dance scene, this will be his first teaching visit to England and, like Mitko Petrov's recent workshops, his programme will include some dances from beyond the Balkans. His Norwegian wife, Hilde, will be joining him and might be persuaded to introduce us to at least one Hawaiian dance - her speciality. Both Lee and Hilde will contribute to the Saturday evening party which I will MC with the help of Sally Fletcher and Dunav.

Much of this has been announced already (see Dates for Your Diary or visit www.balkanplus.org.uk) but there is more . . . Lee and Hilde will be making an informal appearance at the end of season Friday Feet evening at Cecil Sharp House on 20th July (7.30pm in Trefusis). For those coming from a distance to attend the workshops it could be an attractive bolt-on. For those living in reach of the House and who have not yet booked, it would give a taste of what our talented guests can offer and it might even encourage a spontaneous decision to come along to the main event.

Brian Dowsett



Balkanplus

The May Balkanplus will be held on the 12th May in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm. MC will be Bob Robinson.

Admission £6

Maureen Felton



60th Ontario Folk Dance Camp

Fri May 18 - Monday May 21

with Yves Moreau and Roo Lester at the University of Waterloo, Ontario.

(They have given very little notice - but if anyone is interested contact Sheryl Demetro, 416 493 3815 or cdemetn625@rogers.com)



Dear Janet,

In my SIFD days

(approx. 1949-1962 - my membership number is 11)

Hambo was THE dance.

We each had our favourite partner and whirled away. This was even before Pug (Dr. V Cyriax) appeared on our scene and taught us so many lovely Swedish dances.

I doubt if I could still dance Hambo now (at 94) but I'd love to try - with an expert partner of course. I hope many of you still dance and enjoy it. Greetings to all.

Ruth Coton



Hambo

Sweden

A

D A7

D G

13

Intro

17

A D A7 D

B

23

A7 D B7 Em A7 D

29

A7 D A7 D B7 Em

34

A7 D A7 D G

40

D

45

G

C G D7 G

Play ABCA

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



SIFD Committee

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Registered Charity Number 284509

Visit us at www.sifd.org or find us on facebook

Follow us on Twitter *@sifdorg*

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



WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- S.I **Fri.4th-Mon.7th 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>
- S.I **Fri.4th-Mon.7th EASTBOURNE I. F. D. FESTIVAL** 01823
401271 www.eiff.org.uk
- S.I **Saturday 12th BALKANPLUS** see page 13
- S.I **Sunday 13th SIFD DANCE** see page 3



*All material for the June issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received
by the Editor in writing by 18th May.*