

*Society for International Folk Dancing*

***SIFD  
NEWS***

***JUNE  
2018***

*mail@SIFD.org*

*Reg. Charity No.284509*



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I do hope that you have noted down the date and venue of the

**A.G.M. September 8th** (4.30 p.m.)  
Pulborough Village Hall, West Sussex  
(A couple of stations further on from Gatwick.)

Thanks to all who sent in material for this month - we all like to hear how groups around the country are doing; the photographs are welcome as well.

The delightful Turkish dancer with spoons by Caroline Thomas (1973) graces the front cover. Surely there is another member with artistic inclinations just waiting for the invitation to send in a drawing...

**Ed.**



### **SIFD June Dance**

The next dance will be on Sunday 3rd June at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN.

The June dance will be led by Helen Ezra, with live music from the SIFD Band. Dance starts 6.45pm to 9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm).

See you there.

**Brenda Steventon**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jul. 1: BALATON & MORENA AT VICTORIA EMBANKMENT**  
see page 5
- S.I **Jul. 21-22: LEE OTTERHOLT BALKANPLUS WORKSHOPS**  
Dances from the Balkans & Beyond at Cecil Sharp House. Workshops  
10.30am-4.30pm Party: 7-10.30pm Sat. Workshops: Sat £40 Sun £30  
Party £10 W/e deal £70 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](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk) or 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](mailto:info@IDI.ORG.UK)
- Aug. 24-27: SOUTH DOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL** fully  
booked, for waiting list: [suekewley@outlook.com](mailto:suekewley@outlook.com) or 01903 744929
- S.I **Sep.8-9: 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) cheques payable to B.R.I.D.E. info: Janet Douglas (page 2)
- S.I **Sep.8: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Maggie O'Regan, in Trefusis,  
Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, at 7.00pm. Admission £6.
- 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](http://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.*

## **Performances at the Victoria Embankment Gardens**

You may have been wondering why you had not heard from me about performing at the Embankment Gardens this year for the SIFD newsletter. I applied in January, but they were doing some work on the stage area and told me to wait. That work was finished some time ago but despite my prompts to Westminster I only heard a few minutes ago that both performances are going ahead. Doina is performing at the Victoria Embankment Gardens on Sunday 3rd June, 3-5pm. Balaton and Morena are performing there on Sunday July 1st at 3-5.30pm. This year is Balaton's 50th anniversary which is why we are doing a bigger performance with the Slovak group and the Hungarian choir from Southend.

**Leslie Haddon**



### **Balkanplus June 9th**

In recent months Balkanplus has featured a high proportion of Bulgarian dances. This has probably been due to visiting teachers, and to M C preferences. This month will include only one Bulgarian dance, lurking in a varied collection of dances from elsewhere.

Several of Irene Keywood's favourite dances are in the programme as a tribute to her. She loved her Macedonian and Serbian but always joined happily in whatever was on offer, as I hope you will do on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Fiona Howarth, M C**



The June Balkanplus will be held on the 9th June in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm. MC will be Fiona Howarth. Admission £6

**Maureen Felton**



## Child's Portuguese Costume for sale



The child's Portuguese costume consists of a skirt, with tiny little apron and a little waistcoat. I have attached a photo above (with a ruler that shows the size of it - the ruler is 6" long!)

I also have two bigger aprons (*see opposite page*) - more crudely hand embroidered.

Price: costume with the two extra aprons = £50, costume on its own = £45, or each apron on its own £5.

I also have a beautiful Norwegian 'bonnet'. This is priced at £10.

**Sula Gleeson**  
*sgdg6@aol.co.uk*



*black*



*cream / red*



*blue*



### **Barnet Summer Party. Friday 22nd June**

I attended the 7th annual folk festival run by the Bulgarian Tradition and Culture Organisation in the grounds of Forty Hall, Enfield on the gloriously sunny May Bank Holiday weekend. It struck me how times have changed since the Barnet group was founded in the early 1960s. We would not have believed that the exotic Balkan dances we were enjoying then would be danced in a local park by a sizable Bulgarian community.

Some fifty six years on, the club can be proud of maintaining a welcoming atmosphere whilst daring to expand its repertoire with more challenging dances acquired from the finest teachers. The association with Dunav Balkan Group goes back to our early years and we are pleased to welcome the band again to give that extra fizz that only live music can provide.

The party takes place a little earlier than normal this year since some of us will be in Bulgaria in July. See the What's On page for full details. Join us as we end the season in style.

**Brian Dowsett**

## **Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival 2018**

The weather was kind and festivalgoers enjoyed basking throughout the weekend in the sunshine between workshops and dances. It's rumoured that some even went to the beach and paddled! The venue change for Wider - World dance worked well, giving a more intimate and cosy atmosphere to the dancing, along with on-the-spot refreshments.

Your favourite UK teachers: Maggie O'Regan, Dalila Heath, and Jill Bransby with music from Cloudburst, provided a varied programme to satisfy both experienced dancers and newcomers. Maggie's gentle Bulgarian dances were beautiful and gave everyone a chance to try another aspect of this popular style. Jill certainly broadened our horizons - with steps, rhythms, styles and patterns found in a variety of dances from many places round the world. Dalila taught dances she collected when travelling in Turkey, Holland, Armenia and Italy. The afternoon Final fling in the Main Hall was much enjoyed, and this year the International dances were fully integrated so contra and ECD dancers also enjoyed gems like Jill's "Valenki" from Russia with concentric circles which she said looked like a "Berkely Busby" number from the stage. Dalila's "Oy Yossel Yosel" (Israel) and Turkish "Damat" were good fun and Maggie taught "Vesiolaya Kadril" from Russia. This large room of dancers waving their arms in the Russian dance would have cheered the hearts of SIFD committee! Sadly Ron and Jean Wilks had to leave before we could thank them publicly for the time they have spent as International Organisers, working with the EIFF Directors to better integrate all types of dance of festival. The new "International Organiser" is Mecki Testroet, who just loves to dance and stewarded in the Sports Hall along with Heather.

Maureen Knight thanked the dancers for their kindness and enthusiasm during the six years she and Graham have been EIFF Directors, and asked everyone to only remember the things that had worked well and to offer similar support to the new team! Robin James (responsible for tickets, caravans and liaising with the International programme this year) also stood down from the committee. Put 3-6 May 2019 on your calendar, a new committee has been formed, so keep an eye on the EIFF Website and facebook page.

See you next year!

**Maureen Knight** (on behalf of the EIFF Directors)



## **Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group**

We are pleased that **Corry Verheijen** will be visiting us to lead an International Dance Workshop Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 10.30–4.30

Come laugh with us. Come learn with us. Have fun dancing.

For further information contact; 0115 9171831 or

*[gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)* *[www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk](http://www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk)*

Grangewood Meth. Church, Grangewood Rd Wollaton, Notts NG8 2SJ

Day course: £15.00 ½ day course: £10.00

lunch 1- 2.p.m. Please bring packed lunch. Tea, coffee available.

Corry Verheijen is an excellent teacher who has visited England many times. She has a wide repertoire of dances from Europe, the Balkans, Russia and the South Seas.

Her courses are always clearly taught and are fun. Corry will include some dances from Romania within a mix of other International dances. No partners needed.

**Gill Morral**



## **Levent and Glcan Ketenci**

The Turkish Folk Dance Workshop with Levent and Glcan on Saturday 8th September will start at **11.30am** at Pulborough Village Hall, RH20 2BP (later than previously advertised). There will be a shorter lunch break.

The SIFD A.G.M. is scheduled for 4.30pm. followed by Supper and an evening dance.

The Sunday morning workshop remains unchanged starting at 10.30am.

**Janet Douglas**

## **Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group**

It was hot! It was May Bank Holiday. That means it is the famous Sweeps' Festival in Rochester.

The three-day event enjoyed the most marvellous weather, and thousands flocked to Rochester to see the many Morris sides from across the country, including one from New Zealand, singing, dancing and playing music in the pubs, open spaces and on stages set up around the historic city.

For the second year, the Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group was invited to entertain the crowds. A team of 11 dancers entertained the crowd with hora and choreographed dances, nearly melting in the heat. The crowd loved it and were very appreciative of our performance lasting nearly 30 minutes. We look forward to the same again next year, but perhaps a degree or two cooler this time.

The photographs (*below and opposite*) show the group surrounded by an appreciative audience, as they danced in the street between the ancient castle and cathedral. Why not join us next year? Contact email for Kitka is [kitkabfg@gmail.com](mailto:kitkabfg@gmail.com)

We are also booked for the Tunbridge Wells Mela on 1st July, The Sandwich folk Fest on 8th July, the Maidstone Mela on 22nd July, the Broadstairs Folk and Ale weekend on 11/12th August, and the Tenterden Folk Fest on 6th or 7th October.

**Sue Haydock** Secretary.





## **Woodvale's Half-Century!**

One of the Society's long-established, but also one of the youngest, Groups, has celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2018.

From its beginnings in January 1968 to the present day, Woodvale IFDG has continued to delight the local populace and those further afield (including France) with a fine succession of events and demonstrations of dance.

Although, sadly, two of the four founder members, Eileen and Ernie Nolan, are no longer with us, Jean and I were very pleased to be able to attend the Anniversary Dance on Saturday, April 28th.

I was privileged to be invited to MC part of the programme (Golden Oldie dances, of course!), and to cut the cake with Jean, and give a short speech.

Several original members were present, one of whom will be 89 this year, testament indeed to the motto that "Dancing Keeps You Young"!

The current members who organise and run the Group most certainly deserve the congratulations due to them as having outlasted many other dance groups.

Long may they continue to thrive!

**Ian Willson**

My daughter is doing a Phd on Folk Dance and has read "Dead Puppets Dance" by Philip Thornton.

She is now keen to find out more about Philip Thornton.

I understand that he was a founder of the Society for International Folk dance and that he died in 1992.

Would you be able to expand upon these few meagre facts?

Could you tell me when he was born, where he studied and where he lived after his travels?

He talks a lot about the Diplomatic Corps. Was he involved with that at all?

I hope you can help.

Many thanks in anticipation,

**Andrew Metcalfe**

*metcalfe1bq@btinternet.com*



Dear Janet,

It was good to hear from Ruth Coton in last month's SIFD NEWS and to see that she would still love to dance even though her dancing days, like mine, have long gone. In a recent conversation I had with Frank Dowling he said "but you can still dance in your head", and with the help of the many hours of recorded dance music I have I can try to do that.

As Ruth said, the Hambo was THE dance and although it may look easy, even some of our accomplished dancers found it difficult to do "properly" (i.e. as done in Sweden at the Hambo festivals). The rhythm is subtle and a good partner is essential. Those men who could dance a good Hambo were much in demand.

Best wishes to Ruth.

**Lily Avery**



## Hambo

A lot could be said about hambo, but I'll try to be concise. In Sweden, it is counted with waltz, polka, etc as belonging to the gammaldans (i.e. "old dance") repertoire, which paradoxically means only moderately old, dating from the 19th century or the very beginning of the 20th, as distinct from the various forms of polska, which are older. It resembles polska in having a complete turn in one bar of 3/4 music but differs in having a fixed sequence, with a short introductory part followed by a few turns, either repeating for every 8-bar phrase or alternating with something else. Hambo tunes have a simpler rhythm than many polska tunes, but still quite distinct from waltz and mazurka.

There are different versions of hambo (sometimes "hambopolska") from different places in Sweden. In one, taught at the York summer school in 1992 and included in the Society's Fifty Dancing Years package (and now of course in the Digital Archive) the usual turn alternates with a reverse waltz.

Over the years hambo has also been taught in different ways outside Sweden. In the early days of the SIFD, for example, the man would stamp as he went into the turn. Even within Sweden the tempo of the music has varied up and down over the decades. However one particular version, sometimes called "nighambo" (i.e. "curtsy hambo") because of the downward movement ("svikt"), is done most commonly and is the standard for the big competition in Hälsingland, where hundreds of couples compete.

There's a lovely video at <https://youtu.be/NhefghRXfWk> . If you just want to see how the dance "should" be done (at least for the competition) jump to 4 minutes 56 seconds. If you're interested in costumes, watch from the beginning. The rules require competitors to wear costume, but not necessarily Swedish: when Liz and I watched the 1991 competition, one woman from somewhere in South America (I think it was Valparaiso) was wearing a costume from there. The tune that the musicians (mostly fiddlers, this being Sweden) play as the couples process in this video is strictly a bride march rather than a general-purpose walking tune, from Delsbo in Hälsingland.

**Richard Mellish**

# Hambo

(Harmony)

by W.H. 17/5/79

Sweden

7  
15  
24  
33  
40

## "Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Last month the music for **Hambo** was published, perhaps this harmony for it will be of interest to musicians.

The July piece from the Collection will be **Eten Bamidar** - from Israel - does anyone know anything about it?

Let us know if you do. **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*



## WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

S.I **Sunday 3rd DOINA AT THE EMBANKMENT GARDENS** see p. 5

S.I **Saturday 9th BALKANPLUS** - see page 5

S.I **Saturday 9th BALKAN DANCE DAY WITH CATHY MEUNIER**  
10.30-4-30 at Unstone Community Centre, 20 Crow Lane, Unstone,  
Derbys. S18 4AL.tel Gill [ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com](mailto:ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com) or 01246  
410020

S.I **Sunday 3rd SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 3

S.I **Friday 22nd BARNET SUMMER PARTY** with music by Dunav. 8pm  
at Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet Herts. EN5 4BW. £6 includes  
refreshments. Tel 020 8440 1366 (Irene) or 01992 582717 (Brian)



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