

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



September 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.

Just a quick reminder to all you SIFD teachers who haven't yet sent in an item about your speciality - perhaps you could write something along the lines of the main characteristic of your chosen country's dance, costume, music and/or history (some of us need educating).

The front and back cover photographs were taken by Martin Phillips in Bulgaria, his article is on page 6.

Ed.



re AGM

I have just realised that a small mistake (by me) in drafting the motions for amendments to the Constitution and the explanatory notes didn't get corrected in the version that was included in the AGM papers. Motion 4 concerning the standard of teaching and the Teachers' list should of course refer to paragraph 7.7 of the Constitution, not 7.6 f.

Richard Mellish



SIFD September Dance

September will soon be with us which means the monthly first Sunday night dance resumes after the summer break.

Jeanette Hull is our MC on 2nd September and the dance is held at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. The SIFD Band will be playing for us and we start prompt at 6.45pm finishing in time to clear hall by 9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm).

See you there,

Brenda Steventon



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Oct. 6: INTERNATIONAL DANCE WORKSHOP** with Corry Verheijen 10.30–4.30 Grangewood Methodist Church, Grangewood Rd Wollaton, Notts NG8 2SJ Day course: £15.00 ½ day course: £10.00 Please bring packed lunch. Tea, coffee available. contact; 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk
- S.I **Oct. 9: BARLOW IFDG** is hosting Corry Verheijen. 7.30 - 9.45p.m. at St Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton Manchester, M21 0XJ. £5 maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk or 0161 881 0955
- S.I **Oct. 13: BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be The Ipswich Group, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting 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
- Nov.10: DAY COURSE OF INTERNATIONAL DANCING** in Derbyshire with Gill Morral at Calver Village Hall, S32 3XR from 10.30 to 4.30. Cost for the day is £10 Bring your own lunch but drinks will be supplied. Contact Janet at j.king194@btinternet.com (01629 57065) or Greg at gregboyd99@aol.com (07810181273) to book.
- S.I **Nov. 10: BALKANPLUS** MCs will be Jill Bransby and Rainmakers, 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.*



SIFD Archive

Have you all got your updates? Or perhaps you have not yet purchased one of our Digital Archive Memory Sticks to take advantage of the invaluable opportunity to access the SIFD's archived material.

We need to make one correction to the instructions in the April News. We still recommend getting proof of posting when you send your Archive USB stick to Jeanette Hull for updating, but not a "signed-for" method (tracked, next day, etc) as that requires her to make a trip to a very inconvenient sorting office.

Anyway it is timely at this point to say how impressed and extremely grateful the Committee is for the huge amount of work that Ron Wilks has put and continues to put in to the Digital Archive Project. We have always been anxious that the SIFD's material is made as available as possible in fulfilment of the objectives as set out in the Constitution.



For many years we sold records / CDs and books, but as the opportunity to access information digitally spread we would have been left behind without Ron's enthusiasm, expertise and help. The Society is indebted to him. Three cheers for Ron (and Jean of course)!

< *Ron Wilks*

We also acknowledge the help given to the Memory Stick Project by other SIFD members including Jeanette Hull and Alison Scrimshaw.

Richard Mellish

on behalf of the SIFD Committee



Acting Chairman's report

For the information of members before the SIFD 2018 AGM

Since the last revision of the Society's Constitution some years ago, the officers (Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer) have been appointed by the Committee after each AGM. When we came to that task last year, there was no problem with re-appointing Dalila as Secretary and Judith as Treasurer, but no one was willing to be Chairman. I had let it be known previously that I was willing to chair meetings but wished to avoid the "figurehead" role; and that has remained my position. Eventually it was agreed that I would be "acting Chairman" and such I have been.

Consequently this is my personal view, as a member of the Committee but without donning a Chairman's hat, of what we have or haven't achieved since the 2017 AGM.

In all conscience, we have mostly marked time. We had been below full strength already before two Committee members stood down at the 2017 AGM and no-one came forward to replace them. The others are a good team that I am happy to work with, but we are too few. (The Constitution would allow a Committee of as few as three but it wouldn't be able to do much.)

We have kept on top of routine business (with one exception, noted below) but progress on any of our projects depends on someone having the time and the will to do the work, and sometimes also on luck. We had high hopes of running a new kind of event to bring in new dancers, keeping the cost down but with the attraction of live music. A lot of work was put into this but eventually the project did not come together. We have not abandoned it entirely but it is perforce shelved at present.

With a gradual increase in the number of affiliated groups and a gradual decrease in the number of individual members, it was realised some time ago that a new membership structure might be appropriate, but the sub-committee that was appointed to look at possibilities has not yet offered us ideas.

We have long wished for a thorough refreshing of the SIFD website, but work proceeded in fits and starts, with different individuals getting involved and dropping out again. Most recently Richard Scrimshaw has done a lot of development work and we are hopeful that it will reach

fruition before much longer.

Of course many individual members and groups continue to do good things, notably Ron Wilks enhancing the electronic Archive, with the first update being issued in April.

One routine task that was left undone for a while was monitoring the *mail@sifd.org* mailbox, so a large backlog built up. Fortunately nearly all the messages that arrive there are automatic notifications from Twitter and suchlike, which can be ignored, and utter spam. There were very few messages from real people that needed to be dealt with, with apologies for the delay, and we are now dealing with those that continue to trickle in.

In common with thousands of organisations of all sizes we had to decide what to do about the General Data Protection Regulation. In the absence of any helpful official guidance and with the personal experience of a roughly 50/50 split among other organisations either requesting explicit permission to hold data about us or merely informing us of their data protection policies, we chose to err on the side of caution and request explicit permission to hold membership data and other personal data where appropriate such as bank account details for the people to whom we need to pay money.

Richard Mellish



Dance books

The Society has recently been given some books by John Melville. They are:

- Aspects of folk dance in Europe - Helen Wingrave and Robert Harrold (an overview)
- European folk dance - Joan Lawson (a detailed overview with some music and dance descriptions)
- Folk dances around the world - Janert Pholeric
- International folk dancing USA - Betty Casey

Any member who wishes to borrow any of these books should contact me.

Richard Mellish

July in Bulgaria

This was the title of a two week tour which many of us have just returned from, run by Iliana Bozhanova and Todor Yankov.

The holiday was focused on the Rozhen Folk Festival - which in the end was cancelled! A decision by the local Mayor, and influence from the Shepherds Union, I believe. While this was a disappointment, there was plenty else on this tour, and a visit to Rhodope, an area new to me, was substituted for Rozhen.

My last time in Bulgaria was in a group of 7, so I was apprehensive by there being 46 this time, but no need to worry, the large group worked well, and gave the opportunity of meeting many new dancers. The group comprised 26 British, 8 German and 12 American; this was successful with much “international” integration socially.

While all the other British flew from the UK on the first day, I did a more ambitious option of travelling to Bulgaria by train through six countries over two weeks, but that’s another story. Travel on the tour was by coach; I could write a whole article on coach breakdowns, by the end we were on our third vehicle, causing much additional work and stress for Iliana. As necessitated by a large group, we stayed in large hotels; these were all comfortable with good facilities. All meals were included, definitely no shortage of eating - each day buffet breakfast, three course lunch and three course evening meal.

We stayed in 5 locations, generally 3 nights each: Ribaritsa (Teteven) in the North, Arbanasi (Veliko Tarnovo), Plovdiv, Smolyan in the Rhodope Mountains, and Sofia.

The holiday was both dancing and singing. Iliana ran five morning dance classes with music from Todor on his accordion. At least part, if not all, of each day was suitable for whatever level of experience. Classes for singing were held some evenings. There were many competent singers on the holiday, especially some of the Americans.

Plovdiv is where Iliana and Todor are based, and where she runs her dance ensemble, so there was more emphasis on dancing here. We had two dance classes in the cultural centre in Voivodinovo, and in the evening her group provided an extensive meal for us followed by a dance party.



Five dance performances were arranged for us to watch. The first from a local group performing in our hotel in Ribaritsa. Near Arbanasi we saw a group with such impressive singing, dancing and costumes that we were amazed afterwards to be told that they were amateurs. We did then see a professional group in Plovdiv. The last performance, mainly singing, was by a children's group in Bobov Dol, a smallish town near Sofia with, we were told, 150 children in the group.

From Smolyan we spent a day travelling to Madan and on to a remote mountain area. An idyllic location for a house used as the base for the local dance group who performed for us, plus picnic lunch and dancing round the swimming pool with backdrop of the Rhodope Mountains - a "garden party" in the Summer sun, perhaps the most memorable day of the holiday.

As well as the formal sessions, Iliana arranged singers and musicians to play for us during some of our evening meals. And, as is common in Bulgaria, in restaurants we would often just get up and start dancing between courses - together with the locals.

This wasn't just a dancing and singing holiday. Much of the first day was spent in caves near Teteven, some of the most impressive I have ever seen. Veliko Tarnovo was once Bulgaria's capital, this was one of two wet days, we had a guided tour of Tsarevets (fortress) and the Old City.

Plovdiv is Bulgaria's second largest city with extensive Roman ruins (currently closed) and will be European Capital of Culture next year, and some of us saw much of the city dramatically illuminated at night. Other sights included a church in Arbanasi, plain on the outside but then with impressive frescoes covering the whole of the interior, as is common in Bulgaria; the Memorial Church at Shipka; Bachkovo Monastery, one of the largest in the country, again with extensive frescoes; the city centre of Sofia, the current capital; and several ethnographic museums. Add to all this, sitting idly in cafés, and around, or in, hotel pools.

Many of you will know Iliana as a dance teacher, for which she has a well established reputation. But after two weeks, which seemed more like two months, this was equalled or even surpassed by her ability as a tour organiser. Travel, hotels, meals, sightseeing, local dance displays and the vagaries of Bulgaria (a country which is modernising but in some respects not quite there yet), this was an operation of huge logistics and achieved with remarkable efficiency. Highly recommended! Also special thanks to Brian for coordinating UK operations, and to Ron and Jean for producing what will no doubt be another excellent DVD.

These trips are usually biennial, although we may have to wait until 2021 for the next one to avoid clashing with Koprivshitsa in two years - but it will be worth the wait.

Martin Phillips



Musicians roll of honour



This is a photo of the SIFD Band musicians in 1981.

I'm on the left, then Ernie with John seated in front of him on violins. Leslie is standing at the front with the accordion, and Alan Humberstone is at piano, with Wilf Horrocks leading the band on accordion. I can't recall the names of the other two.

Philip Steventon



Balkanplus

The September Balkanplus will be held on the 8th September in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm.

MC will be Maggie O'Regan. Admission £6

Maureen Felton



Rowena Martin

On 19th July Bexhill IFDG bid farewell to Rowena who is emigrating with Bernard to Australia in September to be with their daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren.

Our group will be sadly depleted as she has been teaching us for 25 years, specialising in Israeli, Russian, Armenian and Balkan dances and has been a tremendous support to our small but very social group.

Over the years, Rowena has been very active in dance, attending courses abroad and in London. She will be known to former Organisers and participants in the Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival as she hosted overseas tutors as well as organising the stewards and helping decorate the school gym.

Willingdon IFDG was her 'baby' for some years before handing over to Silvia McIntyre. Rowena also helped found the Lewes Israeli FDG following a series of Israeli dance workshops by Anat held between 1990 and 2003. In addition she ran occasional dance workshops locally to share knowledge of her special interests.

The August Bank Holiday weekends of dance she organised at various locations, including Hassocks, Roedean and latterly, Plumpton, proved popular. Workshops in International, English and Circle dancing were offered by volunteer tutors during the day with general dances in the evening.

Her Twixmas days of dance, held between Christmas and the New Year to help throw off the excesses of the festive season followed a similar pattern and were always well supported.

Rowena will be very much missed, especially by our group. However, her dancing days are not over as Adelaide has both international and English groups. Maybe we'll hear what's 'in' Down Under and perhaps some Pom favourites can be introduced.

Heather Edwards

Bexhill Internatiolknal Folk Dance Group



Waistcoat

I'm offering this to anyone interested.

(would appreciate p&p.)

I bought it in Moscow in 1982. It's about 25 inches long. Maybe it could be worn by man or woman.

Please contact me by email for details. helendebray@gmail.com

(If you would like to see this in colour, please email Helen and she can forward the image to you.)



Helen de Bray



Dear Janet,

How about the attached for your Roll of Honour of musicians? It's from the Sidmouth Festival of 1963. Leading the procession is Denis Smith, who played for countless dances, courses and festivals.

He was the musician of the Westminster Morris Men for 50 years, contributing largely to their success, and was known for "playing the morris as music".

Following him in the procession is his wife Lynda on a smaller accordion. Denis died last November.



Regards,

Frances Nex

Evangelina

Mexican

A Fast (Play AABBA)

Musical score for 'Evangelina' in G major, 2/4 time. The score consists of five staves of music. The first staff starts at measure 8 and ends at measure 12. The second staff starts at measure 13 and ends at measure 17. The third staff starts at measure 21 and ends at measure 25. The fourth staff starts at measure 28 and ends at measure 32. The fifth staff starts at measure 33 and ends at measure 37. Chord symbols are provided below the notes: G, D, G, G7, C, D7, G, G7, C, G, C, G7, C, G7, C.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

I searched for **Evangelina** on the internet and there are several examples on youtube. Apparently 'post colonial' from the north of Mexico, it is a couple dance; polka with heel and toe elements.



The October piece from the Collection will be **Katarina** - from Ukraine - does anyone know anything about it?

Let us know if you do. **Ed.**



Reg. Charity No.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*

mail@SIFD.org





WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- S.I **Sunday 2nd SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- S.I **Saturday 8th SIFD AGM** at Pulborough Village Hall, West Sussex RH20 2BP at 3.30pm
- S.I **Saturday 8th WORKSHOP & DANCE** at Pulborough Village Hall, West Sussex RH20 2BP. 11.30am.workshop £10. 6pm.evening dance £6. cheques payable to B.R.I.D.E. info: Janet Douglas (page 2)
- S.I **Saturday 8th BALKANPLUS** - see page 11
- Saturday 15th KEVIN BURKE** - famous Irish fiddler, 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs Club. London WC1X 8JR: tel: 020 7281 7700



All material for the October issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by 18th September.