

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING



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APRIL 2019

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

The couple pictured on the front cover are from Českých Budějovic, the capital city of South Bohemia, the picture is one of several sent in by Dennis Turner. I took the back page photo of the Latvian group at the 2005 Eastbourne Festival, and adapted it to make the motif. **Ed.**



New SIFD Recordings

It is six years since the SIFD produced a new package of recordings, music notation and dance notes (P10, Twenty-six International Folk Dances). The Committee is up for producing another one, but before we make the major commitment of time we need to know what members, particularly group and class leaders, actually need or would like to see.

Most groups don't have the benefit of live music, so for all the dances not yet covered by SIFD recordings you must be using other recordings, typically provided by the teachers on courses that you have attended (with a presumption that those teachers have dealt with issues of copyright). Are there dances that you would like to be doing but for which you have no suitable recordings? Are there dances that you are doing but for which you would prefer to have new recordings, whether for the sake of better technical quality, or to ensure that they can remain in the repertoire with their music easily available in the future, or for any other reason?

And what about the existing SIFD recordings? How many of those dances are you doing? Are there any dances for which you are using other recordings even though SIFD recordings exist, and if so why?

For whatever new SIFD recordings you would like to have, do you also need music notation? Do you also need dance notes?

One more question: if and when we produce new recordings, music notation and/or dance notes, they will of course be included in the next update of the electronic Archive. Should we also issue them as CDs and printed booklets as before, or only in the Archive?

Answers please by email, phone or letter to any committee member.

Richard Mellish for the SIFD Committee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

May 2-5 EASTBOURNE FOLK DANCE FESTIVAL see p. 6

S.I **May 11: BALKANPLUS-** MCs will be Ursula Brown and Dalila Heath held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6.

May 11: DANCES FROM GREECE TO THE EAST with Chrisandra Harris (Greece, Armenia, Turkey, Central Asia) 10:30 am-4:30 pm (Hall open at 10 am) at Unstone Community Centre, Crow Lane, Unstone, Derbyshire, S18 4AL. Cost £10 including refreshments (bring own lunch). Booking: ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com

S.I **May.17: FRENCH EVENING - RAINMAKERS IFDG**, live music from Danse Herts musicians, 8-10.45pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £5.00 for the evening. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210)

S.I **Jun.8: BALKANPLUS - MC** will be Emily Nisbet, in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. £6.

Jul. 2-7: LLANGOLLEN EISTEDDFOD LL20 8SW 01978 862003

Aug.23-26: SOUTH DOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL, Plumpton Agricultural College, near Lewes, East Sussex. Dances in lines and circles, European Folk & Circle Dance, shared teaching. Also singing and Tai Chi. £195 full board, single rooms. Contact Sue Kewley suekewley@outlook.com or 01903 744929

Sep. 14-15, 2019: GREEK FOLK DANCE WORKSHOPS

10:30am-4:30pm with Kyriakos Moisidis at Headington Parish Hall, Dunston Road, Oxford, OX3 9BY. cheque for £70 payable to Mary Perryman: 26 Hamilton Road, Oxford, OX2 7PZ. Tel: 01865 552688 mary.perryman4@gmail.com Share veg.lunch, free drinks, Greek restaurant meal Sat. social dancing. Possible local accommodation

Oct 25-28: 3 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING & WALKING led by Phil & Brenda Steventon Dancing in the morning and evening, 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader. at HF Holidays, Longmynd House, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6AG For details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

Oct. 26-27: DANCE AROUND THE WORLD Cecil Sharp House



*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.*



A Note from the Committee

In reply to Fiona's question about Honorary Membership, the procedure, as set out in Section 3.4 of the Constitution, is that a motion has to be put forward signed by six members at the next AGM. The motion will then be put to the members at the AGM for a vote.

Also, in this issue, I enclose the minutes of the AGM that was not quorate back in September 2018. Printed too late to go with the EGM minutes.

Dalila Heath Secretary



Balkanplus

The April Balkanplus will be held on the 13th April in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.30pm. MC will be Brian Dowsett with a party evening following the first day of our Serbian workshop with Vladica and Saša. Admission £10.

Maureen Felton



SIFD April Dance

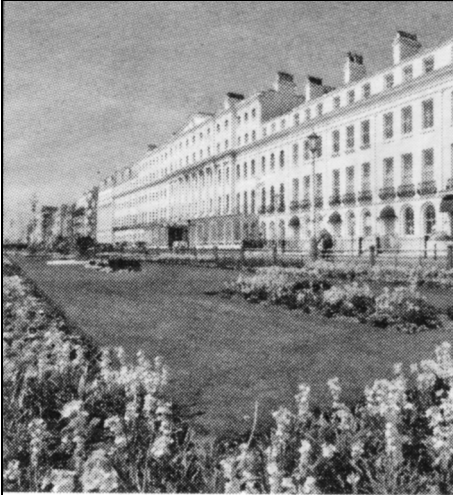
This month not only will we be dancing to music played by the band but we will be dancing their choices too as they will be MC.

The SIFD dance is held at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. We start promptly at 6.45pm, finishing in time to clear the hall by 9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm). The next dance will be led by Anne Leach on Sunday 12th May. See you there,

Brenda Steventon



Publicity



MAY

Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival

If you love dance, you won't be able to resist three days and nights of dance classes, shows and social dancing in coastal Eastbourne. As well as Playford (English) and American-style folk dancing, there's also an international flavour, including Bollywood, Bhangra and Eastern European. Two costumed balls are an opportunity for period dressing. Tickets are £111 for the weekend, £149 with a caravan pitch. eiff.org.uk

This article about the Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival was in the Sunday Telegraph Supplement 3.2.19., as part of “*Arts, antiques & cultural experiences*”... *Getting Around*. *cultural events in London and the South East*”.

Frances Horrocks came across it and thought it might be of interest; she wonders how they came by it.

In 1998 Christine Hall wrote about utilising newspapers to get free publicity for dance groups.

As I had to fill a couple of pages this month - I have reprinted her article(s) see page 8. Of course technology has changed since then - but newspapers are not obsolete - yet.... Which begs the question: “Are we using current social media to our advantage?”

It's good to see the Eastbourne Festival weekend in a national paper - however it got there.

Ed.



Roll of Honour (re SIFD news August 2018)



The two photo's enclosed are of Cliff Beck (and others) during April 1970.



The occasion was to say farewell to me as the next day I was moving to Wales to get married to Vic. We had just come from our monthly dance at Cecil Sharp House and the musicians brought their instruments with them. At the time real live musicians were a rarity and many M.C.s were using heavy tape recorders or played the piano. So you can imagine how we all felt when Cliff joined us, not just as a dancer but as a musician as well. My memory is that he was with the Harrow Green group who met in the Bethnal Green area and we all enjoyed his contribution and his sense of fun. He was a good looker too!!

Ah well, Happy Memories.

Sue Clark

How to Get Free Publicity for Yourself and Your Events (part 1) Writing Press Releases

Almost everything you or your group does can make an article. Perhaps your group won a prize at a local dance competition, or are preparing for your very first television appearance? Think in terms of 'news', and write about events BEFORE they happen. An announcement of a folk dance show for charity is more interesting than a review of what happened.

Remember that most magazines and newspapers are produced several days, weeks and even months in advance. For example, if your local newspaper is published on Fridays, the copy deadline is usually on Tuesday or Wednesday, and some pages are put together earlier than that. Try to submit your copy before Monday to increase the chances of getting it published. If you don't send an article, but just the information, you have to be even faster, to give the journalist time to interview you, do the research and write up the piece.

Unlike a school essay, which leads the reader to the conclusion slowly and gently, a good press release presents the reader with the essential facts (what happens/ happened where, when, why, with whom and how?) in the first two paragraphs. The following paragraphs contain interesting background information. Sub-editors, when they have to shorten an article to fit into an existing space on the page layout, are always in a hurry. It is journalistic practice to chop off the last paragraph if there isn't enough space.

Type your press release on one side of white A-4 paper, with margins on both sides and with double-spacing between the lines to give the sub-editor room for corrections. Keep your sentences short and succinct, in plain English, and prefer the active form to the passive. For example, "The Oakhill Balkan Dancers will perform Greek dances at next year's village fete" reads better than "Greek dances will be performed by the Oakhill Balkan Dancers". Use plenty of quotations; for example "I'm so excited", admits 24-year-old Susan Smith. "This is going to be my first ever public performance". Simply interview members of your group, or the organizers or yourself to get good quotations. They make the piece interesting, readable, personal and lively.

Always give a contact name and telephone number in every press release. Sometimes it is sheer luck if a piece is published or not. During some

days, the editorial desks are covered in press releases, and even well-written pieces about interesting events end in the bin. On other days, the sub-editor may be so desperate for a short article to fill a gap that he/she will joyfully put in a whole article about Susan Smith, dressed in Bulgarian costume, winning the third prize in the local fancy dress show. Photos increase your chances of acceptance by 500%. More about that in the next part.

(Part 2) Having Your Photo Taken

Photographs increase the chances of your press release getting published. Keep suitable photos at hand. If you are a professional dancer earning professional fees, it's worth employing a professional photographer. For amateur dancers, studio fees can be prohibitive. Ask a good hobby photographer to take the pictures. Give your friend a whole roll of film, so that you can select the best picture. If the photo shows a group, use several rolls of film, because it's likely that at least one dancer per picture looks ridiculous.

Choose your costumes with care. Picture editors simply love the colour red, which attracts the magazine reader's eye. So if your group have bright red costumes, choose them for the photo session. Bright yellow is also good. The most versatile studio photo is the one which has a plain background.

Editors love photos with movements in them. Show the photographer your dance routine, let him/her choose the most photogenic movements, and repeat those over and over. Slow, dignified movements usually come out better than the fast ones. Keep your face relaxed and smiling. Remember that you will need more film for photos which show you moving than for those which show you standing. Action shots during a show rarely work out as well as they should. If you want pictures with an audience which look as if taken "in action", pose them with your friends before or after the event.

A good press photographer leaves a bit of "useless background" around the main motif, so that the sub-editor can cut it to fit it into an existing space in the page layout. For example, he/she may need a square picture, and if you have supplied a portrait of yourself with exotic headdress which has no background at all, he/she has to cut off either your mouth or your eyes - or not publish it at all.

Write a caption on the reverse; the name of all the people in the picture, »

from left to right, the date and event, and a return address. Never send your negatives or your original slides; they are bound to get lost in the editorial office or in the post. You can have slide duplicates made for about £1 each; prints cost even less. Some publications prefer slides, others colour prints or black and white prints. Try to have at least one of each. It is possible to reproduce in black and white from a colour print or slide, but the resulting prints look dull unless the picture is very sharp and has strong light/dark contrasts. You get good quality prints from slides, but it does not work the other way round. Slides produced from prints are not good enough for publication.

Christine Hall (1998)

(Christine is an experienced newspaper and magazine editor - as well as a belly dancer).



The Serbians are coming

We are still accepting bookings for the Balkanplus Serbian workshops with Vladica and Sasha on 13th/14th April. Turn to the What's On page for details and let me or Maureen know. The duo will also be displaying their talents at the Balkanplus party on the Saturday evening.

In the run up to the weekend you could get a sneak preview of their programme at Oxford on Thursday evening and at Barnet on the Friday night. We guarantee an amazing experience. info: www.balkanplus.org.uk

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Remembering Naren

I am able to give some information about a special event we are staging to celebrate Naren Kotiyan's life. It will be held between 7pm and 10.30pm on Saturday 25th May at the Serbian Community Centre, 89 - 91 Lancaster Rd, Notting Hill, London W11 1QQ (off Ladbroke Grove).

It will feature several groups that Naren was associated with including Dunav and the London Bulgarian Choir. Please contact me if you have ideas or would like to contribute something to a programme that will be an amalgam of music, song and dance. Hopefully, it will be fitting tribute to a great friend and mentor to many of us.

Full details will be given next month.

Brian Dowsett

Great Alne Long Weekend – Friday 26th to Monday 29th April

The Great Alne Long Weekend – this year is our 36th – is for folk dancing and much more! Great Alne is a small village in Warwickshire 2.5 miles from the delightful market town of Alcester, 8 miles from Stratford-Upon-Avon, 13 miles from Warwick and 31 miles south of Birmingham

Our main draw is, of course, the various folk dancing, but being a compact village hall the venue lends itself well to the smaller and more intimate group activities such as part-singing, drumming, playing pan-pipes, hand-bell and handchime ringing, maypole and Morris dance participation.

We endeavour to cater for all abilities and have music sessions where you can bring along any musical instruments to join in with easy tunes, and the sessions for pan pipes, drumming, handbells, etc. are always started with some basic instruction. These are ideal activities for children/ grand-children, who often show up the ‘experienced’ adults! And by the way, young people up to the age of 18, accompanied by paying adults, are welcomed free-of-charge.

On the International side this year we have Karin Bellaart from the Netherlands to teach a variety of International folk dances, Elsa Perez to teach some dances from South America and a few from South Africa, and Julian Stanley to lead us through some Breton dances.

Each evening we shall have a social dance: contra dancing, English folk dancing and a little easy international folk dancing.

‘Fresh air’ is also on the programme – with planned walking and easy cycling available on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons – so do bring walking boots or suitable shoes, and a bike on Sunday, if you would like to take part.

We provide a hot evening meal on Friday and a hot lunch on Monday, for those who would like it. On Saturday and Sunday we provide baguettes etc. at lunchtime and a choice of hot dishes for evening meals. Cold snacks such as biscuits, cakes and fruit are generally available at all times. All very reasonably priced!

We do hope you will consider joining us for all or part of the weekend. Special offer for SIFD members: pay only the ‘Early Bird’ prices (£39.00 for the 4 days) which would otherwise have expired at the end of February! See website <http://www.greatalnefolk.org.uk/> for prices and booking form or phone 0121 689 1802.

Paul Lindley

Dear Janet,

In the March Issue, you published a copy of an English Dance –the **Bonny Breast Knot**, with the music taken from Wilf Horrocks' Collection. In the EFDSS Community Dance Manuals, published between 1947 and 1964, and reissued as one volume in 2005, there are two different versions of this dance.

Wilf Horrocks' music is for the Sussex version, collected by Mary Neal and Clive Carey from a village called Knapp in West Sussex. The notation is for the Devon version, collected by Maud Karples.

I attach the notation for the Sussex version and the music for the Devon version.

David Atkins



Bonny Breast Knot, Sussex

longways duple minor

music *Bonny Breast Knot* coll by Mary Neal & Clive Carcy Knapp West Sussex polka step, short sets of four or five couples recommended

A 1. 1st man with right hand, hands his partner between 2nd couple, 1st woman dances fig.8 around 2nd couple while the 1st man dances clockwise around outside of 2nd couple to places.

A 2. Repeat A1. giving left hands at the start, the 1st man dancing fig.8 while 1st woman dances round anti clockwise.

B.1. 1st couple lead down the middle and back to places (2nd couple may follow down the middle making an arch for 1st couple)

B.1. Couples swing and change.



BONNY BREAST KNOT (DEVON)

A

B

G D D D⁷ G D D

D A D D A

D A⁷ D Em A⁷ D

Quiz (the answers to Fiona's quiz last month):

- | | |
|----------|-----------|
| 1. Mack | 9. Jo |
| 2. Hal | 10. Sam |
| 3. Pop | 11. Di |
| 4. Lou | 12. Elena |
| 5. Vi | 13. May |
| 6. Ali | 14. Carla |
| 7. Belle | 15. Al |
| 8. Buck | |



Dear Janet,

In the March SIFD News you wrote:

“For the April issue I will offer **Ahavat Hadassa** from Israel in the forlorn hope that some one knows or remembers it.” *

Here at Woodvale this is a dance that we do at least annually – we try to schedule the dances so that all those in our repertoire are covered over the year. A few have to be omitted but we do as many as we can. We also have request nights through the year and our most recent one included this dance!

In addition to this, during the year we have three ‘Theme Nights’ where we do dances from a particular country or countries and group members prepare food from that country and bring along souvenirs or artefacts. Last year for the first time instead of a Theme Night we had a film evening where one or two members showed us films of folk dancing that people have seen (the Europeade, the Maclennan Folk Festival, the Alnwick Folk Festival and even some of our own demos).

Jenny Cant

* I was agreeably surprised to receive not just one, but three replies about Ahavat Hadassa. **Ed.**





registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I **Sat.6th-7th PETROS SELKOS** - dances from N. Greece at Cliff College, Calver, Derbys. Residential from £185, non-residential with meals £115. *cathy_meunier@hotmail.com* or 23 Church St. Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX
- S.I **Sunday7th SIFD DANCE** see page 5
- Thursday 11th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO** Serbian dance workshop with Vladica Tanaseievic & Sasha Smrekic. St Margarets Institute Polstead Rd OX2 6TN 7.30 - 10pm. £7. at door
- S.I **Friday 12th SERBIAN EVENING AT BARNET.** Vladica and Sasha teach from 8pm at Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW. £5.00 Details: Brian 01992 582717.
- S.I **Saturday 13th BALKANPLUS** - see page 5
- S.I **Sat.13th-Sun.14th VLADICA & SAŠA - SERBIAN DANCE W/SHOPS** Sat.10.30-4.30 at Primrose Hill C.C. 29 Hopkinsons Place off Fitzroy Rd. NW1 8TN Party (see p. 5) Sun.10.30-4.30 at Cecil Sharp House. W/shops: Sat £40, Sun. £25, Party £10. W/end package £55. cheque to 'Balkanplus' with SAE to: Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich, IP4 5EG
- S.I **Sunday 14th DANCES FROM EPIRUS** 10:30 - 4:30 with Dimitris Triandafyllidis at the UPS Club, Inst. of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG. £30 incl. refreshments. Cheques to 'Helios' to Sue King, 83 Upland Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5JA
- S.I **Fri. 26th - Mon. 29th GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** see page 11

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