

Society for International Folk Dancing



June 2019

SIFD News

[www.sifd.org](http://www.sifd.org) registered charity number 284509

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Posting and electronic distribution is done by Dalila Heath.

The front cover shows Kitka (page 9). For the back page I have 'dressed' this month's motif, a line of Bulgarian dancers, in different Bulgarian (↓) regional costumes.

**Ed.**



## **SIFD June Dance**

This month's dance is on Sunday 2nd June. Helen Ezra will be MC with music provided by the SIFD Band.

The SIFD dance is held at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. We start prompt 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 Jill Bransby on Sunday 7th July. See you there,

**Brenda Steventon**



## **Balkanplus**

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

MC will be Emily Nisbet. Admission £6.

**Maureen Felton**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Jul. 2-7: LLANGOLLEN EISTEDDFOD** tel 01978 862003

S.I **Jul. 7: SIFD DANCE** see page 3

S.I **Jul. 13: BALKANPLUS** - will be a request evening, perhaps you'd like a favourite dance from a recent workshop or a 'golden oldie', all requests to Ron Wilks please, to be held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6.

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

S.I **Sep. 14: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Maggie O'Regan held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6.

### **Sep. 14-15: GREEK FOLK DANCE WORKSHOPS**

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

S.I **Sep. 28-29: NUTBROOK I.F.D.G. 40th ANNIVERSARY**

Sat a.m. St. Michael's Church Hall Bramcote NG9 3HD. 10.30-12.30 workshop £7. Sat p.m. Memorial Hall 1.45-4p.m. workshop £7 Sat 4p.m. Anniversary cake followed by S.I.F.D. A.G.M. £0. Sat 6pm Buffet pre-booked £7.50. Sat 7 -9.30 p.m. Dance Heart of England band £7 All day ticket with food £25 Sun all day 11am.-4p.m. Info & application forms 0115 9171831 Gill Morral or [www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk](http://www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk) or [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)

S.I **Sep. 28: S.I.F.D. A.G.M.** 4p.m. Memorial Hall Bramcote  
NG9 3HD

**Oct. 5-6: BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP** with Ventzi  
Sotirov and Balkansko Oro Oxford. Details in July edition

**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.*



Dear Janet,

I was reading the announcement in the May News of the  
Llangollen Festival, and thought I should point out that the  
details omit reference to the Traditional Folk Dance Group  
category (ie the competition for adults) on Friday July 5th.

With best wishes

**Judith Payling**



## Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival

In my opinion, the last Eastbourne Festival went off very well. Judith De Witt bravely volunteered to become Festival Director in May 2018, but I took over in January with a committee dedicated to get the festival up and running for 2019. At the event, dancers looked very happy and contented and lots came up to the committee and thanked them during the weekend.

I participated in the International workshops and dances as much as I was able. Unfortunately, as Director, other commitments did get in the way and, by Sunday afternoon, I was so tired that my mind could not cope with the enjoyable but intricate Balkan, Armenian and Israeli movements Karin Bellaart was teaching. I confess I took the easy(?) option and did American contra for a while!

As you may have heard, this was the last Eastbourne International Folkdance Festival. The good news is that the whole event will continue next year - and hopefully for many years to come - in Evesham under the title May Heydays - at Evesham, The Folkdance Festival in the Vale.

Why move at all? There were many reasons but one motivation was the fact that 75% of dancers attending Eastbourne came from north and west of London. Moving to Worcestershire should therefore reduce mileage and travelling times for the majority of attendees and thus cut down our carbon footprint significantly. Whilst a few dancers may complain about the move, in my opinion, this reason alone is reason enough. The concept will be identical to what we used to do at Eastbourne. This includes a full International dance programme from the Balkans and beyond. As Karin Bellaart's classes were very popular this year, I have booked her again for next year. There will also be French workshops, and I'm looking for one additional teacher, maybe to concentrate on Israeli dances.

May Heydays at Evesham does now have a director whose first love is International, so, rest assured, the last thing I want is to lose that side of the festival. However, the International will only continue as long as there are enough dancers to make it financially viable. It would be unfair to the rest of the festival goers to have to subsidize one particular style. So it is up to you, the dancers, to keep it going.

I am fully aware that a lot of International dancers would prefer "proper" native teachers from the country a dance originates in. Unfortunately, at the current level of participation, the festival can simply not afford these teachers, so it is the archetypal Catch 22. If we can grow the support, it will increase our options. Here are the details about the migrated festival: May Heydays will be held in The De Montfort School in Evesham (Four Pools Rd, WR11 1DQ). The school has 6 halls and full camping facilities on site. The festival will be within walking distance of the town centre (1 mile approx.). There will be catering on site. Evesham and the surrounding area offer plenty of hotel, B&B and self-catering accommodation, for more details check the website [www.mayheydays.org.uk](http://www.mayheydays.org.uk). The nearest hotel is the Evesham Hotel, about half a mile from the school. It is quickly getting booked up. The cheapest nearby option is the Premier Inn, about 1 mile away. There is a train station in Evesham (and a new one being built a few miles away, Worcester Parkway) with a direct line from London Paddington. If you have any suggestions for the future or feel able to help organize the International side of the festival, I would love to hear from you. Please contact me via: [director@mayheydays.org.uk](mailto:director@mayheydays.org.uk)

**Mecki Testroet**



## One of Nature's Gentlemen



It is sad to record the death of Anne Leach's father, Russell, who managed to reach the great age of 97, still living in his family home in Hayes in Bromley Kent.

For me, Russell had several different incarnations. When seven-year-old Anne was in my class at Hayes Primary School he was "one of my fathers". Later he joined my Evening class and so became one of my students. At the Sunday dances in CSH, he was a dancing friend and sometimes partner; in early times he kindly gave me a lift home in his faithful car.

Almost to the end Russell made his way up to London for SIFD events. He was seen at dances and of course supported Anne at Dance Around the World.

We shall all miss Russell and remember him with fondness as part of the history of SIFD.

**Fiona Howarth**



## Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group

Spring has sprung, and with it the beginning of the dancing season for Kitka. It began with public performances at the Rochester Sweeps' Festival. This is a very popular festival with 57 Morris sides from all over the country, ceillidh bands, folk rock, and traditional and harmony groups taking part. For three days over the spring bank holiday the streets of Rochester (and the pubs) are filled with colour, music, singing and dancing, not forgetting the thousands of people who turn up to enjoy the atmosphere and spectacle.

Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group is a regular feature now, being local, and this year we were joined by some of our junior members, Little Kitka, for the first time. Our red costumes are from Thrace, but this year we were able to use some of the costumes we have inherited from the Vasil Levsky London Bulgarian Group. If you look at the photo (*front cover*) you will see Andrew on the extreme right wearing a blue outfit and Krisi on the extreme left wearing a Pleven skirt and chemise. By the way we are still looking for the adult sets of Pleven and blue Sofia costumes, so if you know where they are we would love to hear from you.

The weather was much cooler than last year when the temperature reached 25C, and the little rain we had did not stop us dancing (check out the looming black cloud in the photo). We performed a choreographed Arap and Malachevsko as a suite, Gankino horo, from Northern Bulgaria, and Trité Putti from Thrace. We finished with Prava Horo, which everyone can join in. If you want to know more about us please email [kitkabfg@gmail.com](mailto:kitkabfg@gmail.com)

**Sue Haydock**



# Amelose Kermis

Holland

A mod

9 F C7 F Bb F C7 F

B F Bb F C7 F Bb F C7 F

## "Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



**Amelose Kermis** is a dance for couples in a circle, (Amelose seems to be the wrong spelling) children should enjoy dancing it as it has simple figures like skipping round in a circle and 'gypsying' (English folk dance term for two people revolving once round each other).

Kermis means circus; **Amelose kermis** is a travelling fair also known as Boerenkermis (farmers fair)

see: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d\\_x2H\\_Rqs74](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_x2H_Rqs74)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CIZRiXp5YLQ>



The music for the Hungarian **Dances of Kalvesa** will be featured in the July issue.

I expect to hear from Hungarian dance aficionados.

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 tel: 01707 642774 *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*

### Other Committee Members:

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- Brenda Steventon 92 Hamilton Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey  
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- John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics.  
LE67 8NU *j2ohn@yahoo.com*





## WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

S.I **Sunday 2nd VICTORIA EMBANKMENT - BALATON** with the Southend Hungarian folk choir. 3 -5 pm

S.I **Sunday 2nd SIFD DANCE** - see page 3

**Saturday 8th RUSSIAN DANCE WORKSHOP.** With Sue Kewley, 2.30-4.30 pm at BHASVIC College, 205 Dyke Road, Hove. £5, refreshments included. Book via [info@kalinka.org.uk](mailto:info@kalinka.org.uk) or online [www.kalinka.org.uk](http://www.kalinka.org.uk)

S.I **Saturday 8th BALKANPLUS** - see page 3

S.I **Sunday 9th VICTORIA EMBANKMENT - DOINA** with the children's Hungarian folkdance group Csillagszemuek. 3 -5 pm



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