

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING



***SIFD
NEWS***



November 2019

Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis,
West Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010 email:
SIFDNews@hotmail.co.uk

The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

The Minutes of the recent AGM accompany this issue. Nutbrook International Folk Dance Group – celebrating their 40th Anniversary are pictured on the front cover (see page 8).

Ed.



SIFD November Dance

Do come along this month and support our two new MC's Ian Green and Alison Scrimshaw. The dance is on Sunday 3rd November 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).

Next month's dance is on Sunday 1st December. See you there,

Brenda Steventon



Thoughts at 92 (almost)

Simon's poem in last month's News
Echoed my own thoughts and similar views
on the value of friendships made while dancing
which enrich our lives, our enjoyment enhancing.

As a little girl, teenager, woman, then wife,
dancing has always been part of my life
but now that I'm old and my memory dimmer
I try to waltz round the house on my Zimmer

Lily A

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Dec. 1: SIFD DANCE** see page 3
- S.I **Dec. 14: BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be the Zivko Firfov Group plus there will be music from Dunav held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £8.
- S.I **Jan. 11: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Meryl Abraham, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6.
- S.I **Feb. 5-10: RIVIERADANCE 2020** Residential Balkan & beyond with Erik Bendix (dances from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Armenia) & Caspar Bik (dances from the Black Sea area - Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia & part of Russia). 5 nights full board, Torquay. course options: from £435 (dancers); £335 (non-dancers). contact cathy_meunier@hotmail.com website: www.balkanfolkdance.org or send s.a.e to Cathy Meunier 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX

Mar 20-23: 3 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING & WALKING

led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing morning & evening, 4-5 mile walks with HF leader at Newfield Hall, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire BD23 4AA tel: HF: 0345 470 8558 or Phil: 020 8397 9649



*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.*



November Balkanplus

In my programme on November 9th I shall be offering a melange of Gloden Odlies [dyslexic speech] and accessible tuneful dances. Lovers of highly complex recent compilations may not find much to their taste, but I hope some of you who have not ventured to Balkanplus may be tempted to give it a try. Some dances will be “walked through” and there will be several “Plus” items to widen the appeal.

Having said this, last time I asked several veteran attendees for requests they would like to do, bearing in mind the brief mentioned above. I was quite surprised by the response, and I shall include their choices.

If Dance Around the World has rekindled your enthusiasm for the wide variety of International dances, do come and give your legs a break on November 9th.

Fiona Howarth



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

Maureen Felton



May Heydays at Evesham

Native Macedonian teacher - 1 to 3 May 2020

As promised in my previous article, there will be a full International dance programme at Evesham. Including a genuine, born and bred, properly trained native dance teacher from Macedonia. This will be the first workshops led by Snezana Balkanska in the UK, although she has been teaching dance for 20 years. She will present both village dances and those from Tanec, the National Ensemble of Macedonia, and unlike other teachers will show the real women's style - don't worry men, she will show both styles. Her dances are accessible for everyone and her style can challenge even experienced dancers. Snezana started dancing at the age of 10. She has been a member of Tanec for more than 30 years where she dances as a soloist. Snezana is known all over Macedonia as a dancer and teacher. She taught her first foreign group in Skopje, a Dutch group led by Martin Ihns and has since taught in Europe, Brazil and Japan. So, as you can see, she is the real deal.

Apart from Snezana there will be General International classes from Karin Bellaart and, in addition, French/Breton workshops and a bal with Steve Earwicker, live music provided by Confluence - Gill Redmond and Alasdair Paton.

We will have three evening dances accompanied by Klerizma: Maya Buckley and Chris Edmunds, both experienced international musicians. Maya plays a number of instruments, mainly the clarinet but also the Bulgarian shepherd's flute (kaval) and the oud; Chris plays accordion, hurdy gurdy and more.

I'm currently negotiating with the Polish display group

Wiesniacy to attend the festival. Watch out for further announcements.

The International venue: the hall we will mainly use, although labelled the "Small Hall", is almost square and as such very suitable for dancing in circles. It has parquet flooring and is bigger than the last hall we had at Eastbourne. It has high windows on one side, so there's natural light, and I do not believe that it is echoey as the big gym was at Eastbourne.

Other May Heyday News

May Heydays 2020 will be cut short by one day (1 -3 May) due to the government moving the 2020 May bank holiday to 8 May (75th anniversary of VE day). Our new venue, the De Montfort School, Evesham (Four Pools Rd, WR11 1DQ), will therefore not be available on the Monday, so we will have to finish Sunday evening. Our performers were unable to move to the following weekend, due to prior commitments. From 2021 we should be able to revert to a four-day festival!

As stated before, 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. The festival now has full camping facilities within yards of the school.

We are also looking for stewards for the International events. Following the tradition long established in Eastbourne stewards are encouraged to participate in the dance events they are responsible and not sit and watch. Duties are very light and stewards are entitled to reduced rate tickets (£41 this year) and free indoor or outdoor camping. If you visit our stewards page, you'll find all the information you'll need.

Any questions or suggestions for future programmes, contact

Mecki Testroet director@mayheydays.org.uk

Nutbrook Int. Folk Dance Group – 40 years young

The above group has enjoyed a wonderful weekend celebrating 40 years of existence. We opened on 15th September 2019 and in those 40 years have enjoyed many day courses usually two a year. In our 80 day course history, only one has been cancelled due to snow.

The weekend of 28th and 29th September with Mariette Van Gelder as the guest teacher from the Netherlands dawned fine and dry. She taught us dances from Serbia, Bulgaria, Israel with a sprinkling of partner dances such as a samba and a Dutch dance. "Mariette was so full of infectious enthusiasm for the whole weekend, and so patient with us. A lovely teacher to have." (participant). The atmosphere was great, the halls the right size and shape for the numbers. It was a great weekend.

Fifty two people attended the weekend for all or part of the event, most of whom enjoyed the buffet provided by Joan. The choice of food was great as was the amount. We even had enough for a second buffet on the Sunday. Joan also made our anniversary cake decorated with four roses, one for each dancing decade.

I would like to thank The Team for all their hard work for without helpers nothing would have gone as smoothly as it did.

Gill Morral



Dear Janet,

I enclose 2 snapshots (*opposite & back page*), taken at Strážnice, to complement and illustrate Dal Sudwell's article in the October News. His article was especially interesting to me as I have made several trips to that region.

That little girl just had to get up on the stage and dance to the music!

Arlene Hansell

Ursula triumphs at Bromley U3A class

Ursula Brown was guest teacher at Bromley U3A class in October. She gave us a varied programme suited to the range of experience, age and agility of the class members!

She taught De Secerat, Paraliakos, Steinhaugen and Xanime and encouraged and cajoled, giving us confidence to persevere. At the final "dance through" I was very impressed by our performance, especially as we had two very new members and a lady of 92 years old.

Ursula has gained experience through teaching at Friday Feet, where you never know who will turn up. This has made her flexible and able to adapt to crises and unexpected events. Her calm confidence was put to the test by a minor shock. With five minutes to start, Les, who brings the CD player and the refreshment bag, had not arrived. Sandra kindly drove me to the hall used by Bromley International class where I collected another player. We arrived back to find Ursula calmly teaching the steps of the first dance without music.

We had a great afternoon despite torrential rain throughout. I highly recommend Ursula to other groups as a patient, friendly and gifted teacher.

Fiona Howarth

leader Bromley U3A class



Pentuzali

Greece

13 F C Dm F C Dm Dm C Dm
Dm C Dm C Dm

“Wilf Horrocks’ Collection”



Next month **Zu Lauterbach** (the last one in the alphabetical list) will feature. Any information, details, anecdotes and pictures are more than welcome.

Ed.



Bulgarian Music & Dance in Lancaster

November 15-16: Bulgarian Music and Dance in Lancaster with Kiril Belezhkov (kaval, from Bulgaria). Lewis Powell-Reid (guitar, bouzouki) and Cathy Meunier (dance).

* Bulgarian Music workshop 15/11 3.00 - 6.30pm Intermediate level or above, with Kiril Belezhkov

* Concert with Kiril Belezhkov and Lewis Powell-Reid followed by balkan music session 15/11 7.30 - 11.30pm

* Balkan Dance Workshop 16/11 9.30am -12.30pm led by Cathy Meunier, with live music from Kiril Belezhkov and Lewis Powell-Reid. Suitable for newcomers to balkan dance.

See lancaster-eurodance.org.uk for info including artist and venue details. You can also contact us via the website or ring Sian (07803 955658)

Paul Sherwood

registered charity number 284509

www.sifd.org

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:

Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340 4683 *caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk*

Holly Payling 07784 117599 *hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*

Brenda Steventon 92 Hamilton Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7PT 020 8397 9649 *brenda.steventon@btinternet.com*

John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67 8NU *j2ohn@yahoo.com*



WHAT'S ON IN NOVEMBER

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

Saturday 9th DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE. A day of dance at Calver Village Hall S32 3XR from 1030 to 1630. £10. please contact Janet: j.king194@btinternet.com (01629 57065) or Greg at gregboyd99@aol.com (07810181273).

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

Sunday 10th GREECE TO THE EAST Wymeswold Leics, led by Chrisandra Harris - dances from Greece, Turkey, Armenia & central Asia. zaramangan@gmail.com tel. 01509 881450

S.I **Fri.15th-Sat.16th BULGARIAN IN LANCASTER** - Music & Dance, see page 10

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*All material for the December issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing **by 16th December***