

The monthly newsletter of the Society for International Folk Dancing



S.I.F.D. NEWS



JANUARY 2023

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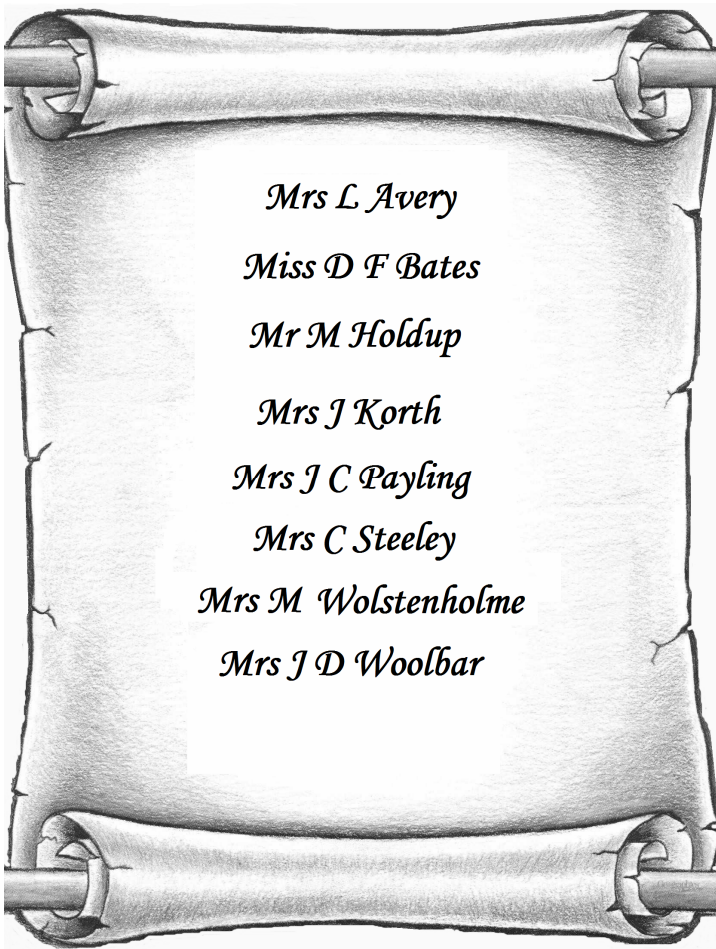
Packaging, posting and electronic distribution is done by Dalila Heath.

The front cover pictures from Penny Munden shows dancers from Southern Albania (*top*) Devolli dance and (*bottom*) Osman Taka's dance. Dilyana Kurdova (May Heydays) is pictured on the back cover.

May you have a New Year full of music and dance

The list of the Society's Honorary members is below.

Ed.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **Mar.11: BALKANPLUS** see page 5

Mar.11: CATHY COMES TO CALVER dance with Cathy Meunier at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR £10. 1030-1630. details Janet 01629 57065 or Gill 01246 410020. Bring your own lunch but drinks supplied.

S.I **Mar. 25: DORRIDGE DAY OF DANCE** at Dorridge Village Hall <http://www.dorridgevillagehall.org/>, near Birmingham, M42 and Dorridge train station. Morning and Afternoon sessions of Int. Folk Dancing with Cathy Meunier – Balkan & Israeli dances. Evening of English folk dancing led by Kim Smith with music from The Cat's Whiskers. Contact: Paul Lindley on 0121 689 1802 or 07913 615002.
www.greatalnefolk.org.uk on 0121 689 1802 or 07913 615002.

April 1: NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP 11.00am – 3.30pm – at Bramcote Memorial Hall Community Room, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Enjoy and learn dances from many countries – led by Brenda and Phil Steventon. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Cost: £8.00. For further information please contact Gill Morral on telephone 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com

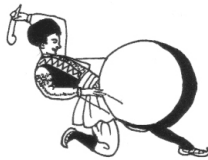
S.I **Apr.28-May.1: MAY HEYDAYS** with Dilyana Kurdova, early-bird tickets: £97pp weekend £20pp - camping. (Under 18s & students: £48 - camping £10) Stewards: £48 (including camping). Prices are valid until 31st January.
www.mayheydays.org.uk

S.I **Apr.28-May.1(2): SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND**

International Dance / walking weekend in Somerset. Evening dancing with Janet Woolbar & others leading and mainly live music. Daytime organised walks, informal dance workshops with Maggie Kaye in the mornings and music and singing workshops in the afternoons or free to visit the area. Booking now - only non-ensuite rooms left! Website: www.halswaymanor.org.uk Contact: Ian Green 07934-909968 or email icgreen@tiscali.co.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.*



Balkanplus

Balkanplus 11th March in Trefusis,
Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY
starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Admission £10
(cash only please)

There will be multiple dance leaders plus live music with Dunav
Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our
website www.balkanplus.org.uk

The entry on **Polska** from 'The Dictionary of the Dance'

by W.G.Raffe

Polska - 1

A country dance in Denmark, Finland and Sweden, coming from Poland (about 1600). *Polski* or *Polska* was an old Polish peasant dance. The Polish name for *Polonaise* is *Taniec Polski* (Polish Dance) and tradition has it that the 16th century Court processional, ancestor of the *Polonaise*, was based on the old country dance. Early Scandinavian dances called *Polska* probably derived from this country dance; while the 19th century ballroom *Polka* from Czechoslovakia has returned to the countryside in relatively "modern" folk dances in Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Sweden and Switzerland. In Denmark *Polska* (or *Polsk-dance*) seems to have been a pair dance in 3/4 time, containing a walk forward and turning on the spot. At Odense, in 1674, wedding celebrations included this dance. In Sweden *Polska* steps included springs and hops, a slow introductory part and many figures, and the dance has been popular in the countryside since about 1600. Modern Sweden has many variations of the old *Polska* (see *Polska-2*). Its use in Finland suggests a certain dignity of style, since until early in the 19th century *Polska* was danced as a preliminary to a banquet. The original Polish *Polski* must have had something of this quality to enable it to be adapted to the stately processional dance which led to the *Polonaise*. When, in Finland, the *Waltz* superseded the *Polska* as an introduction, it became the last dance, known as the *Parting Polska*. Today in Finland there are pair dances, and round or square dances with many figures (generally in 3/4 time)

derived from the old *Polska Hollolan Polska* ("Nine Persons") is for three groups of three, two lines behind each other facing the third.

Polska - 2 (Sweden)

Has developed in this country, from an admitted Polish origin, into many interesting national and local modes of of group dance, from about 1600. Dalecarlia (famous as a district that retains folk customs) has *Dalpoliska*, also called *Slangpoliska* (Swing Polska), as well as *Huppiek* (another dance ending in *poliska* form) at Floda. The Leksand district has *Leksandlaten* or *Lekslanddans*, in which the "Excuse me" exchange of partners is a feature; though in Leksand, two or three couples may dance together before the change-over (or two or three men and one girl). Similar is the *Trikarlspolska* (Three lads' Polska), or the *Fyramanna-dans*, which shows similar groups; but even this is surpassed by "unknown man" who springs suddenly into the midst, for *Rysska-polska* (Russian Polska) to grab the girl. Quite different is *Varmland-polska*, noted for its etiquette. The main form of polka underlies these variations: the alteration of slow walking and quicker turns. Usually the music runs in 2/4 time but changes to 3/4 if the *Crooked Dance* is used; and may continue for the pair dancing in *Dalecarlia Polska*, especially if the pace is altered to a three-step.



Ian Willson

It is very difficult for me to write this – sadly, Ian passed away on November 11th 2022 following a fight with cancer.

Ian has a long association with the SIFD. He met his wife, Jean at Cecil Sharp House in 1960 and they have been dancing all their married life. They founded Woodvale International Folk Dance Group in Kent in 1968 and have taught at Loidis International Folk Dance Group in Leeds since the 1980s.



Ian has played at many dance workshops and events throughout the years and many will remember him leading dances, playing his accordion at the same time – increasing the tempo and trying to out dance the dancers!

His dances ended with smiles all round!

Being a leader for Holiday Fellowship, Ian often lead walks at dance weekends. He was full of energy and had a library of funny stories and jokes to entertain his group as well as a wide knowledge of flora.

On a personal note, Ian and Jean encouraged me to become involved in dancing and supported me running Loidis. Ian played for my school folk dance group at events for several decades. I loved visiting the Alnwick Music Festival with Jean and Ian

over several years, watching dancers from around the world in the market place and even getting Ian to paddle at Alnmouth!

Loidis will dearly miss his bounce, enthusiasm and music. Our love and sympathy goes to Jean at this difficult time. "Live life to the full" I think would have been his motto. Rest in peace now, Ian.

Lorna Ramsden,
Loidis International Folk Dance Group

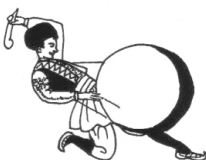


Change of Address

As from 15th December my new address will be:
14 Brookley Gardens, Fleet. GU51 3LL

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all those to whom I won't have time to send greetings this year.

Frances Horrocks



Albanian Folk Festival & Dancing

The Aulona Festival is taking place from 6th-8th May, so I would want to travel on 5th May and then return by 12th May. I realise this co-incides with the coronation of King Charles, but would love to hear from anyone who'd like to join me.

Penny Munden email : penny.munden50@gmail.com

Polka du Talon d'Othe French-Chalonnaise

A

B

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



No response for information about **Polka du Talon d'Othe**, but there is plenty about Polkas on pages 6/7.

Feiar from Norway will be featured next month - please share whatever you know about it..



The picture below shows a **Swedish** group at a festival in 1935. There are four children sitting on chairs in the middle - does anyone know the story about this dance? **Ed**.



SIFD Committee

mail@SIFD.org

Acting Chairman Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN *Richard@Mellish.uk* 0208 863 7807

Treasurer: Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF. *judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*

Secretary: Dalila Heath 102 High Street, Landbeach, Cambs CB25 9FT *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*

Other Committee Members:

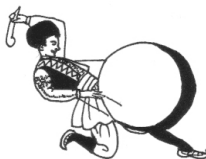
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C.I.O. number **1189141**



www.sifd.org



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Sunday 8th NEW YEAR PARTY at Calver Village Hall, Hope Valley 11.00 to 16.30. For more information contact Greg Boyd on 07810181273 or gregboyd99@aol.com



All material for the February issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by 18th January

