

**SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING**



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**APRIL 2023**

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

The pearly king and queen pictured on the front cover are from my local English Country Dance Club (*see below*). England is a nation!. Photo courtesy of Diamantis Palaiologos on the back page.

**Artificial Intelligence:** CHAT bot (AI author) offered the following for our local English Dance Club. Here are excerpts: (to entertain you and fill an empty page!)

“As we celebrate the 90th anniversary of the Felpham & Middleton Country Dance Club, we cannot help but reflect on the role that our club has played in some of the most significant events in modern history. During World War II, many of our members answered the call to serve their country ..... One of the most remarkable stories of our club's involvement in the war effort is the role that our dancers played in the D-Day landings ..... On June 6, 1944, as Allied forces stormed the beaches of Normandy, a group of our dancers were among the first to land on French soil. They were part of a secret operation to set up a dance hall on the beach, where soldiers could go to relax and unwind after the gruelling battle. This dance hall became a beacon of hope and joy for the troops, and it played a vital role in boosting morale during the early days of the invasion. After the successful D-Day landings ..... many were involved in the capture of Paris, as Allied forces liberated the city ..... they danced in the streets of Paris, ..... Our members also played a key role in the Battle of the Bulge ..... and were among the troops who were airlifted into the battle zone to provide support and assistance to the soldiers on the front lines. They set up dance halls and entertainment venues in makeshift buildings, providing a much-needed respite from the rigours of combat. .... These stories are a testament to the courage, resilience, and spirit of our members. Even in the midst of war, they never forgot the joy and happiness that dancing can bring, and they found ways to share that joy with others.”

(CHAT is **used by students to write essays** - the mind boggles! Maybe I'll just ask it to write the News next time nothing comes in.)

**Ed.**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **June 10: BALKANPLUS BULGARIAN WORKSHOP** with Boiko Andonov, 11.00am-4.00pm followed by an evening dance 6.00pm-9.00pm, in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY. Admission £25 for the day, £10 for the evening or £30 for both. Bank details available on request, or cheque payable to Balkanplus plus SAE for tickets to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. Any enquiries to [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com) or [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)
- S.I **June 24:LOIDIS IFDG** is celebrating its 40th Anniversary with a workshop lead by Cathy Meunier at St John's Church Hall, Leeds LS17 7BZ. Time 10:45am until 4:30pm. Please bring your own lunch, drinks will be provided. £10 for the day. Everyone welcome. Contact Lorna Ramsden 0113 2937645 or email [lornaramsden@btinternet.com](mailto:lornaramsden@btinternet.com)
- S.I **Oct. 28-29: 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.*



### Michael Holdup 1931 - 2022

Michael died a few months ago in a care home after a short stay there. He had been in poor health for some time.

With his late wife Edwina he transferred to English dancing many years ago when his back became troublesome, but they regularly attended weekends where he often ran Saturday afternoon sessions.

Incredibly, until the early 90's the News was produced by a team of dedicated members, each working to a tight schedule every month to pass on their bit to the next member in the chain. Michael and Edwina were members of the chain and were made honorary members of the Society in appreciation.

**Mavis Sayers**

I was very sorry to hear that **Michael Holdup** has died. Every time I hear that another of my contemporary folkdancers has gone it brings back memories of when we were young and the SIFD was in its heyday, but "Fings Ain't wot they use-ter be" and of course everything changes.

At its most active the Society:

Ran day-courses every month with teachers from abroad.

Ran weekend courses, staying at lovely houses; Well, not

all lovely; Surrey Crest had wooden huts and bunk beds!

Week-long Summer Schools at university premises.

Trips abroad to collect dances, music, costumes.

Demonstrations at various venues, inside and outside.

Took part in International Eisteddfod and Billingham

Festival

And, of course, our shows given at the Royal Albert Hall,

(Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening)

Sunday dances at Cecil Sharp House.

We also used to promote the SIFD by producing illustrated postcards, notelets, T-shirts, shoe bags, tea-towels and books and music.

There are probably still lots of groups, demonstrations and classes going on at the moment that, as I am no longer an active member, I don't know about, so it would be good if members contributed to the SIFD News by sending in an article from time to time, and as a past editor I know how difficult it can be to fill the pages so I'm sure Janet would be pleased to have more material. Also, resuscitating the "The Chairman Writes" and "Secretary's Notes" would be a good idea so that we can hear what the Committee is working on or planning.

**Lily Avery**







*mail@SIFD.org*

## **SIFD Committee**

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The Folklore Dance Festival "Diamantis Palaiologos" will take place in Skopelos, Greece from 7th to 9th of July. Skopelos boasts numerous churches, quaint alleys, the Venetian Castle of the Gizi, the old Episkope, a Folklore Museum, the Ancient Asclepeion in Ampeliki, and numerous monasteries are worth a visit.



## WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

- S.I **Apr.28-May.1: MAY HEYDAYS** with Dilyana Kurdova,  
[www.mayheydays.org.uk](http://www.mayheydays.org.uk)
- S.I **Apr.28-May.1(2): SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND** Int.  
Dance/walking weekend in Somerset. Evening dancing with Janet Woolbar /mainly live music; dance with Maggie Kaye in the mornings - music & singing in the afternoons or / visit the area.  
Ian Green 07934-909968 or email [icgreen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:icgreen@tiscali.co.uk)

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