

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



MAY 2023

www.sifd.org

C.I.O. number 1189141

Contact the SIFD at mail@sifd.org

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

What a difference in content from last month! (thank you Lily); the April issue was somewhat lacking. The cover picture this month of the SIFD dancers at the Royal Albert Hall was sent in by Frances Horrocks (her reflections are on page 5); we have news from Bournemouth (my hometown), a dissertation on fairies and more upcoming events.

As you know, we have a colour front and back cover each month and I am running out of suitable pictures. It would be nice if you could send in colour photos of you or your friend or group in **costume**; along with details about it, ie. from which country / region / did you make / buy / inherit. It can be any age maybe from a few decades ago but colour is the main requirement as I need cover material; although black and white ones are welcome for the inner pages. If you can't send it as a jpg. electronically send it in the post and I will scan and return it. Let's hope I'll end up with a couple of years worth of pictures of members in costume for the SIFD News cover.

The Wilf Horrocks notes for **Alunelul** will be published next month. It's a dance I have resurrected as once again, I have a class of little ones. Teaching children is a wonderful excuse to do all those dances that aren't sophisticated enough for adults.

Ed.



Announcement for Groups

The Committee are pleased to announce that the hourly rate at which the SIFD pays teachers will increase to £38 with effect from 1st May 2023.



New Date!

Cathy comes to Calver.

Dance with Cathy Meunier at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire, S32 3XR 1030 to 1630 on 1st July. Details from Janet 0162957065 or Gill 01246 410020. Bring your own lunch but drinks will be supplied. Hopefully no snow will stop us this time!!

Janet (Matlock and Dronfield groups)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 3: BALATON, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS
at 3-5 pm.

S.I **June 10: BALKANPLUS BULGARIAN WORKSHOP** with Boiko Andonov, from 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, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG. Any enquiries to *maureen.felton@btinternet.com* or *www.balkanplus.org.uk*

July 1: CATHY COMES TO CALVER see page 3

July 15: DOINA, VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS
at 3-5pm.

Aug. 18-21: 23rd SOUTHDOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL at Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex. BN7 3AE. With sessions of various types of dance, offered by participating teachers. Usually European Folk dance, Circle dance and English Folk Dance. Shared teaching in the evenings. Single rooms with shared facilities and good food. Contact *suekewley@outlook.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.*

Loidis IFDG has cancelled it's 40th Anniversary workshop on June 24th due to a clash of local events. We hope to reschedule later in the year. Sorry for any inconvenience caused.

Lorna Ramsden

(lornaramsden@btinternet.com)

at the Royal Albert Hall

In the April News Lily Avery mentioned the shows that the S.I.F.D. used to take part in and I recently came across a programme named “Dancefest” from the 20th September 2000. It was organised by the Central Council for Physical Recreation and displayed a diverse range of activities from yoga, cheerleading, a Chinese cultural group, the chair bound and many more. There were twenty-six different groups taking part including, of course, the S.I.F.D. who presented a medley of Bulgarian dances.

Our performers came from eight different groups from across the country - Barlow (Manchester), Sheffield, West Midlands, Newport, Bristol, Rainmakers, Croxley Green and Balkanplus, accompanied by the Dunav Music Group, making us one of the few groups with live music.

The wonderful intrepid leaders of these groups, plus a few extras who wanted a trial run to see if they could cope with the Bulgarian dances, met for the first rehearsal in Solihull, Birmingham being the most central point with the best travel communications.

During the day the leaders learnt the dances and went away with the music, kindly pre-recorded for the occasion by Dunav, and a set of dance instructions. The dances were Gajda from the Pirin region in 4/4, Dajčovo from Severnjaskco region in 9/16, Idam, Idam which was sung and finishing with a Makedonsko in 7/8.

When the groups all met up for the next rehearsal it was clear that the group leaders had done a fantastic job in teaching their groups and the performers had worked very hard. These participants ranged in age from ten years old to the more mature persons whose age one did not ask.

The next question was costumes which were begged, borrowed and home made, all authentic in design and appearance and giving a wonderfully colourful display.

All those taking part said what a unique and not-to-be-missed experience it was to dance in the Royal Albert Hall which has an atmosphere all of its own. If you were one of those can you find yourself in the accompanying photo? (*front page*)

Those were the days.

Frances Horrocks, teacher, choreographer, producer



Bournemouth and Christchurch U3A

International Folk Dance Groups

Now that Covid is no longer dominating our lives, I am pleased to say that we have had a very productive and busy two terms with membership increasing in both groups.

Last September began with a workshop given at the Swanage Folk Festival which proved popular and, once again, we are being asked to undertake dance displays. We generally dance for an hour and include approximately 16 dances with some audience participation. Audiences so far have included the Trefoil Guild, Stroke Club, Retirement and Friendship Groups. It's been a joy to dress up in our international costumes and the smiles on the audiences' faces are always a great reward.

The highlight so far has to be a “Day of Dance” held on Tuesday, 15 November when over 30 members put on their dancing shoes and were immediately transported on an international journey under the leadership of Phil and Brenda Steventon. Our first stop was South America, followed by Europe and beyond. This was their second visit to our u3a and it was a day thoroughly enjoyed by all.

With spring and summer approaching, we will be looking forward to participating in the Wimborne Folk Festival, Poole Festival on the Quay, hopefully, a visit to Cecil Sharp House and a workshop from Janet Woolbar.

What a delight - the diary is filling up and the sun is now starting to shine down on us all.

Janet Mason



French traditional music workshop in Lewes Saturday 10 June

10:45-16:45 £45 (2 under-25s £22)

Emmanuel Pariselle & Didier Oliver workshop: French traditional music for any instrument.

Emmanuel is one of the best melodeon players in France, a singer and an expert in French regional dance music. He also plays a specially-designed “Franglo” concertina. He has taught at Hands-On Music & regularly leads melodeon-building weeks in England. Didier is a superb fiddler and also dazzles on mandolin, boha (Gascon bagpipes) and guitar. They are favourites at the National Centre for Folk Arts at Halsway Manor. Both are wonderful singers.

Email to reserve places, bring cash on the day. We are finalising which area of French traditional music the workshop will cover.
valmaigoodyear@aol.com

8.00 - 11.00 p.m. £12 Email to reserve tickets, pay cash on the night. Evening performance at the Elephant & Castle, White Hill, Lewes BN7 2DJ.

Valmai Goodyear



Joan Davey 1936 - 2023

It is with great sadness that I am writing to tell you that Joan Davey has died.

Joan had a stroke in February 2019 which paralysed her left side and, despite her determination and efforts, she was unable to regain the use of her arm and leg and remained house-bound. Nevertheless, she remained happy in her own home, never complained and maintained a good sense of humour. She was taken to hospital on 8th March and passed away that evening.

I know Joan enjoyed her time dancing with the SIFD and in later years receiving the News magazine.

Wishing you and the Society every success in the future.

Brenda Cartlich

Dancing like a Fairy

A sweet airy-fairy meditation

Recently, I paid a small compliment to my dancing partner and she told me back that I was sweet. At first I considered it as a return compliment, but then I started pondering about her reply. Yes, she was right, I am sweet, I must be sweet, considering the piles of sugar I normally pour into my tea mug and heaps I usually put on my muesli. I even realised that when I dance Scottish, for example, many of my favourite dances refer to sweetness: Sugar Candy, Chopped Nuts and Chocolate Swirls, Butterscotch and Honey.

Talking about honey, I never realised what an arduous work the bees perform. I have read in a scientific magazine the other day that in order to produce 1lb of honey 1152 bees have to fly over 112 000 miles and visit 4.5 millions of flowers. (And what an arduous work the scientists had while following all these bees and calculating all the distances and counting the flowers visited!) Honey is always on my menu, whenever my throat gets nasty. Since reading the article, I am very careful not to step on any flower and endanger bees' livelihood. I try to follow the example of fairies, though I don't think they any of them are SIFD members.

Indeed, I delight in watching dainty little fairies at the top of the garden (my back garden slopes uphill), ever singing, ever dancing, indulging in their vagaries in a fashion most entrancing, tripping hither, tripping thither (nobody knows why or whither), how they dance and how they sing round about their fairy ring, just as Mr. W.S. Gilbert described it. And with all that activity they never damage a single flower. Amazing!

I wanted to acquire a bit more knowledge about fairies, especially how to dance without damaging plants, but Waterstones don't stock any informative book about them. I thought, maybe at Wetherspoons, after a few pints, I can attain a better knowledge. But then I went one better and visited a second-hand bookshop in Charing Cross Road in London and found an old, 19th century book that was very informative. For example, I didn't know that in the period after midsummer fairies are particularly active and it's a very good time to bind them to your service. But, if you do see the fairies, you should be sure never tell. (Alas, I am breaking this injunction by telling you!)

Most people are, of course, hopeless in binding fairies to their service. So, here it is how to do it, according to a 17th century writer Elias Ashmole: “First get a broad square crystal in length and breadth three inches, lay it in the blood of a white hen three Wednesdays and three Fridays. Then take it out and wash it with Holy Water and fumigate it. Then take three hazel rods of a year’s growth, peel them fair and white, and write the fairy’s name (which you call three times) on every stick being made flat on one side: then bury them under some hill whereas you suppose fairies haunt, the Wednesday before you call her, and the Friday following call her three times at eight or three or ten of the clock. But when you call, be in Clean Life and turn thy face towards the East, and when you have her, bind her in that crystal.” So happy fairy-hunting everybody but, please, be kind to them, I am sure they will reward you for your kindness.

Here many of you will ask how they could recognise a fairy if they see one. Actually, it is not that difficult. Brewer’s “The Dictionary of Phrase and Fable” gives a fairly (ha ha) detailed description of the dress of the fairies. “They wear a red conical cap, a mantle of green cloth, inlaid with wild flowers, green pantaloons, buttoned with bobs of silk, and silver shoon. They carry quivers of adder-slough, and bow made of the ribs of a man buried where three lairds’ lands meet. Their arrows are made of bog-reed, tipped with white flints, and dipped in the dew of hemlock. They ride on steeds whose hoofs would not dash the dew from the cup of a harebell.” So, now you know.

Midsummer will be round soon, and with it a number of open-air summer dances. Enjoy them, but be careful not to dash any flowers under your feet. You should have no qualms stepping on ants, though. According to another scientific publication, there are approximately a million ants for every human being on our planet, so a few ants here and there won’t be missed.

Happy summer open-air dancing!

Dal Sudwell



“Wilf Horrocks’ Collection”

Gankino

Bulgaria

The musical score for "Gankino" is written in treble clef with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a 16/8 time signature. The piece consists of 50 measures, divided into ten systems of five measures each. The melody is characterized by frequent eighth-note patterns and is embellished with numerous grace notes (marked with a double wavy line) and triplets. Chordal accompaniment is indicated by letters below the staff: Dm, Bm, A, E, D, A, Bm, Dm, F#, and B major. The score concludes with a double bar line and repeat dots.

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WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- S.I Apr.28-May.1: **MAY HEYDAYS** with Dilyana Kurdova, 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



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