

*SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING*

# S.I.F.D. News



# August 2023

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

The front cover shows the Woodvale International Folk Dance Group (*see page 8*). There is news and a photo from Kitka (*see page 5*). The motif of the Gog Magog dancers is from Jill Bransby's article on May Hey Days last month.



Anne Leach has some disappointing news about Dance Around the World on page 6. Nevertheless, thanks to her and her army of helpers we had many enjoyable international dance weekends over the years.

**Ed.**



## **Membership Renewal**

Enclosed with this month's News are your subscription renewal forms already completed with the information we hold for you. There is no need to return the form if all is well but please advise us of any changes. Payments can be made (preferably) online or by cheque.

## **AGM**

We are also turning our minds to the AGM which we need to hold before the end of the year. As last year's AGM was in London, we are hoping that one of the groups outside London would like to host this – perhaps combining it with a dance day to encourage greater attendance!

I also take the opportunity to enclose a nomination form in case there are people out there who might like to join the SIFD Committee.

Many thanks.

**Dalila**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Sep.9: BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.pm - 9.pm. Admission £10 (cash only please) There will be multiple dance leaders plus live music with Dunav. Any enquiries to [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com) or [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)
- S.I **Oct. 7: 40th ANNIVERSARY - LOIDIS IFDG** is celebrating with a workshop lead by Cathy Meunier at Barwick in Elmet Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Barwick in Elmet, Leeds LS15 4EL. Time 10:45am until 4:30pm. Please bring food to share, drinks will be provided. £10 for the day. Everyone welcome. Contact Lorna Ramsden 0113 2937645 or [lornaramsden@btinternet.com](mailto:lornaramsden@btinternet.com)
- S.I **Nov 3: RAINMAKERS 47th ANNIVERSARY DANCE**, 7.30pm-10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 4YF. £10.00. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. More info from Mark (01462 454210) or email [markbalaam2@sky.com](mailto:markbalaam2@sky.com).
- Nov.18: NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP** 11.am–3.30pm at Bramcote Memorial Hall Community Room, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Enjoy and learn dances from many countries – led by Anne Leach. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Cost for the day is £10.00. For further information please contact Gill Morral on telephone 0115 9171831 or [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)
- S.I **Dec.9: BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.pm - 9.pm. Admission £10 (cash only please). There will be multiple dance leaders, other details to be confirmed. Any enquiries to [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com) or our website [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.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.*

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

## **Balkan & Israeli Folk Dance Workshops at Sidmouth Folk Festival**

I am teaching some Balkan and Israeli folk dance workshops at Sidmouth folk festival 4th - 11th August (Monday, Tuesday and Friday).

It is very short notice, but if you happen to be in the area, it will be lovely to see you there.

**Cathy Meunier**



### **News from Kitka**

The Walking for Peace event this year, organised by the Medway Interfaith Action (MIFA), took its familiar format culminating in a noisy, joyful gathering at St Mark's Church, Gillingham. Several nationalities were represented by song and dance, and drinks and a hearty board were provided.

Kitka were invited, once again, by popular demand, to perform twice during the afternoon.

Rumi, Bobbi, Tina and Emma, wowed the audience with their new costumes, and choreography involving complicated footwork. I am sure they will be asked back again next year! The red costumes are from the Trace region, and the green costumes are from Northern Bulgaria.

*(see back page photo of Rumi, Bobbi, Tina and Emma dancing Paydushko from Northern Bulgaria)*

They will be dancing again on 10th September at the Maidstone Community Mela, Mote Park, Maidstone at some time between 12.00 and 18.00.

If you are interested in joining the group, which meets in Rochester, please contact [susanjhaydock@aol.com](mailto:susanjhaydock@aol.com) A warm welcome awaits.

**Susan Haydock**





Dear Janet,

The latest news from Dance Around The World is that, sadly, the management at Cecil Sharp House has let us know that the festival cannot be accommodated in the venue, this year. It seems that last year's October event was, in fact, the last.

We are disappointed, of course. We have had the privilege of working with so many truly exceptional traditional dance exponents, over the years. The event was created by all the performers, teachers and our wonderfully talented and enterprising volunteers. The fact that they all so generously donated their time and expertise is what made Dance Around The World sustainable for so long and enabled it to grow.

We couldn't be more grateful for the support provided by SIFD. In what has been a harsh funding climate for as long as anyone can remember, there are very thin pickings for grass roots, community arts events. SIFD has been a sympathetic and hugely well-informed patron and that has been invaluable.

Dance Around The World grew beyond anyone's expectations (except, perhaps, those of our visionary founder, Vineet Vijh). It stands as testimony to the extraordinary talent and altruism that abounds in the traditional dance sector; that's everyone reading this newsletter and all our friends in the wider folk dancing world. Just keep doing what you do. Folk dance is definitely safe in your hands.

With warmest wishes,

**Anne**



## **International Dance Weekend** **with Ira Weisburd 4th-6th October 2024**

Ira Weisburd has been dancing and choreographing for more than 45 years! His unique and diverse background comes from many years of researching the dance rhythms and styles in countries around the world. He will be coming to the UK to give a weekend workshop at the Hydro Hotel, Eastbourne on October 4-6, 2024.

He has extensive knowledge and understanding of Balkan dances and rhythms. He organized multiple tours every summer during the '70's & '80's to study first hand in Greece, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria and Yugoslavia. It was there that Ira met and studied with legendary teachers like Ted Petrides (Greece), Csaba Palfi (Hungary), Theodore Vasilescu (Romania) and the Branko Krsmanovich Folk Dance Ensemble (Beograd, Yugoslavia).

He has been invited to give workshops worldwide, including the USA, Canada, Netherlands, France, Belgium, Norway, Australia, Hong Kong, China, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Israel, Bulgaria, Mauritius and Reunion Island. This will be the first time he has taught in the UK!

Ira has co-choreographed dances with Dimitar Mitko Petrov (Plovdiv, Bulgaria), Snezana Balkanska (Tanec Ensemble, N. Macedonia), Kostadin Balkanski (Tanec Ensemble, N. Macedonia) and the famous accordionist, Goran Alachki (N. Macedonia) whom some of you will know, and Ira was the first non-Israeli to be accepted as a choreographer of Israeli dance and has worked with and co-choreographed dances with Israeli choreographers: Yoav Ashriel, Gadi Bitton and Eli Ronen.

The 4-star Hydro hotel has a light and airy ballroom with a sprung floor; there is a large car park and the hotel is a short taxi ride from the train station. There will be dancing on Friday night, in the day and evening on Saturday and dancing until 12 noon on Sunday.

For further details, please contact *rosemary.gledhill38@gmail.com*

Hi Janet,

In response to your appeal for coloured photos of dancers in costume, I thought this might be of use to you (*see front page*):

Woodvale International Folk Dance Group is based in Borough Green, Kent and was formed in 1968. We still meet every week to enjoy our dancing although, like other groups, the number of members has dwindled recently due to age, health and covid.

This is a photo of us dancing at Ightham Mote in Kent a number of years ago, wearing our Romanian costumes. Luckily we have some contacts out in Romania, so parts of the costume are authentic (ladies' blouses, aprons and belts) whereas the skirts and mens' tops were made by members of our group and we were able to source the mens' trousers through a sports shop. We enjoy dancing in these colourful and comfortable costumes.

**Dot Fuller** Woodvale I.F.D.G.



**The Reel of the 51st Highlanders** was my favourite Scottish Dance before I gave it up. Every night after Scottish Dancing I was jerked awake with cramp; the painful intensity meant I could never remember how to stop it; my husband did, but resented the screaming interruptions to his dreams. So I retired from the class, became cramp-free, and now very rarely spring about on my toes.

**Janet Douglas**



### **The Reel of the 51st Division**

This dance has an interesting history. It was first devised by two officers of the 51st (Highland) Division in a Prisoner of War camp in Germany, and danced there until the men were too weak to dance. The Division had been captured in 1940 at St Valery, France.

The Divisional Commander, Major General Sir Victor M. Fortune, K.B.E., C.B., D.S.O., must also have been captured as my note states that the



dance was first performed in the camp, in his presence, and he granted permission to name it 'The Reel of the 51st Division'.

In years gone by the dance was included in many programmes but is in danger of being forgotten in favour of newer dances, which is a pity, as it has an interesting movement in the diagonal setting. It was the first non-traditional dance to be included in the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society publications.

Philip E. Lloyd.

### THE REEL OF THE 51<sup>ST</sup> DIVISION

TUNE *The Drunken Piper or any good pipe tune*

TIME 4/4

*This is a longways reel-time dance for 3 couples. A new top couple begins on every 3rd repetition.*

#### BAR 8

1-8 1st couple set to each other, and then cast off two places on their own sides of the dance. They meet below 3rd couple, and 1st man leads his partner up the middle to place her facing her 1st corner, he turning to face his 1st corner.

9-16 1st couple set to 1st corners, 2 pas de basque. They turn corner joining right hands—2 skip change of step—and, still holding right hand of 1st corners, give left hands to partner, making a diagonal line across the dance.



13-14 All set in line. 2 pas de basque.

15-16 1st couple, dropping hand, of 1st corners, turn each other with left hands to face 2nd corners. 2 skip change of step.

17-24 They repeat all this with 2nd corner, but, instead of turning each other on the last two steps, they cross over to own side one place down.

25-32 1st, 2nd and 3rd couples make a circle, and dance 8 slip steps round to the left and 8 back again, finishing on their own sides of dance one place down.

1st couple repeat dance with next 2 couples.

# Reel of the 51st Highlanders

Scottish

## The Drunken Piper

Musical notation for 'The Drunken Piper' in 2/4 time. The piece consists of 27 measures. The key signature is one flat (B-flat). The notation includes treble clef, a repeat sign at the beginning, and various chords such as Am, G, Em, and B. Measure numbers 6, 12, 17, 22, and 27 are indicated.

## Staten Island

Musical notation for 'Staten Island' in 2/4 time. The piece consists of 45 measures. The key signature is two sharps (D major). The notation includes treble clef, a repeat sign at the beginning, and various chords such as D, G, A, and D. Measure numbers 32, 38, and 45 are indicated. A 'Twice' marking is present over measures 45-48.

## Rachael Rae

Musical notation for 'Rachael Rae' in 2/4 time. The piece consists of 55 measures. The key signature is two sharps (D major). The notation includes treble clef, a repeat sign at the beginning, and various chords such as D, A, G, A, D, F (d), Em, and A7. Measure numbers 50 and 55 are indicated.

### "Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

The dance **Allemande** (from Switzerland) will be featured in the next issue. Please share any knowledge you have of the dance. **Ed.**



## **SIFD Committee**

- 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.  
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- Secretary:** Dalila Heath 102 High Street, Landbeach, Cambs  
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John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics.  
LE67 8NU *j2ohn@yahoo.com*

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## WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

**Fri. 4<sup>th</sup> - Fri.11<sup>th</sup> Balkan & Israeli Folk Dance Workshops** with Cathy Meunier see page 5

**Mon. 7<sup>th</sup> - Fri. 11<sup>th</sup> MACHOL EUROPA** Israeli Dance Institute, University of Surrey. [INFO@IDI.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@IDI.ORG.UK) or Box 1948, 116, Ballards Lane, London N3 2DN

**Fri.18<sup>th</sup>-Mon.21<sup>st</sup> SOUTHDOWNS MINI DANCE FEST** at Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex. BN7 3AE. [suekewley@outlook.com](mailto:suekewley@outlook.com)

