

SIFD NEWS



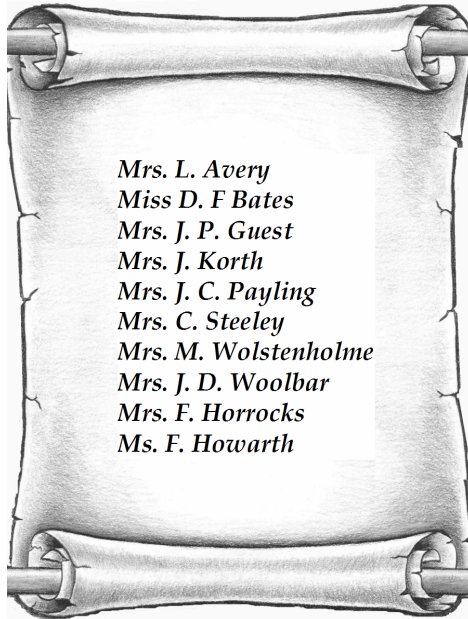
January 2024

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

Happy New Year

The 2024 list of S.I.F.D. Honorary Members:



Catalan dancers on the back page and the front cover is another picture of the Woodvale group in costume (*below*). **Ed.**



“The design of our Italian set of costumes is based on that worn in Bormio, a mountain town in the Lombardy region of the Alps in northern Italy. The museum there kindly sent us diagrams of both the male and female local traditional costumes and we were able to copy them fairly faithfully. For dancing, the ladies may choose either to include the fringed shawl, else the dress with its laced up bodice is very attractive by itself.”

Dot Fuller

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Jan. 13: YGRA AT BALKANPLUS see page 5

Feb. 1-6: RIVIERADANCE www.balkanfolkdance.org

Feb. 9: MACEDONIAN WITH FILIP & STOJAN see page 5

Feb. 10: YGRA AT BALKANPLUS see page 5

Mar. 2-3: NUTBROOK DANCE WEEKEND of international dance with Mariette Van Gelder at Bramcote Memorial Hall, NG9 3HD. Sat. 11am-8.30pm, shared supper at 5.00pm, evening dance 6.30pm. Sun. 11am-3pm. Weekend £40. Sat. day+evening £30. ½day £12. Sun.£15. info: 0115 9171831 see www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk or Gill.morral@ntlworld.com

Mar. 23: DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE at Calver Village Hall S32 3XR from 1030 to 1630. Drinks supplied but bring your own lunch. Further details from Gill 01246 410020 or Janet 01629 57065. We look forward to another day of dance.

Apr. 27-28: DANCE WORKSHOP WITH DANIEL SANDU, teacher, & performer of Gypsy, Romanian & ethnic fusion dances, at Calver Village Hall in Hope Valley, Derbyshire. To reserve a place or for details from Greg: gregboyd99@aol.com

S.I May 3-6 (7) HALSWAY MANOR SIFD WEEKEND
International Dance and walking weekend in Somerset, contact Ian Green: icgreen@tiscali.co.uk or phone 07934 909968

May 3-6 MAY HEYDAYS mayheydays.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.*



Filip & Stojan at Barnet International Folk Dance Club

on Friday 9th February 2024

BIFD group are proud to invite Filip and Stojan to teach and play their traditional Macedonian dances in High Barnet. Filip attended the music academy in Stip and has been collecting music and dance from his country for many years. They are both multi-instrumentalists from Veles in North Macedonia and have taught songs and dances all over the world.

All welcome: 8pm - 10.30pm £10

Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BW



Balkanplus

Learn to folk dance Balkan-style with Ygra – Balkan 'Ceilidh' at Balkanplus. No need for a partner, special clothes/footwear or experience.

Saturday 13th January 7:00pm-10:00pm

Saturday 10th February 7:00pm-10:00pm

7 - 7.45pm: Practice the essential steps with Charlotte and Gabor.

8 - 10pm: Put your freshly gained skills to practice with live music from across the Balkans played by Ygra at Balkanplus.

All welcome.

Trefusis Room, Cecil Sharp House, London

£10 pay on the door or in advance via Ygra facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ygraband/

Charlotte Clare



Lucile Armstrong Interview

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnBO_40uMNC

'The Origins of Folk Dance', one hour interview in five fascinating sections with Lucile Armstrong. This is the only recording on film she made.

Lucile was a lifelong member of the SIFD and danced into her 80s. For 40 years the Chief Adjudicator for the Folk Dance competition at the International Eisteddfod, Llangollen, Wales. In her memory they have the Lucile Armstrong Trophy for the competition's winner. She wrote many papers and books on folk dance.

This film brings Lucile and a fascinating knowledge to a whole new generation as well as the many folk dancers who met her.

Chris Gunstone



Opanka shoes



I am having a clear out and found my opanka shoes in a box in the attic.

Would you know of anyone who could use them?

see photo.

If they pay for the postage, they can have them for free.

They are about a size 5.

Kind regards,

Marion Nieuwenhuizen

marion@mdnew.co.uk

Sticks, Bells and Baldrics: Ball de Bastons

EFDSS Library Lecture: Stephen Rowley

Tuesday 16 Jan 2024 7:30pm-9:00pm

Online £5 All four lectures £15

Sticks, Bells and Baldrics: Ball de Bastons – a Catalan tradition evolving with the times. (*back page photo*)

Ball de Bastons is a dance tradition from Spain that has many similarities with Morris dance. They dance with sticks, in sets, wearing whites, baldrics and bells, dancing in the street to music played on the pipe and tabor. Its history can be traced back to renaissance times when it shared a similar performance context with English Morris.

This paper draws a sketch of the history of Ball de Bastons before focusing on the tradition in the 20th and 21st centuries, a period when it faced existential threats. There was a significant revival in the 1970s which in some ways parallels the Morris revival. At this time there were notable changes in society and this is reflected in the way that the tradition evolved, including the appearance of female dancers in what had been a male preserve. As the cohort of 1970s revivalists grew older they had to address the issue of how the tradition could sustain itself and keep bringing in new blood. The dancers of Vilanova i la Geltrú provide an example of how the traditional music and dance community work together to ensure continuation.

Stephen Rowley has been involved in Morris dance since the early 1970s. Since 2000 he has been regularly participating in traditional dance and music festivals and conferences in Spain with a particular interest in the traditions of Catalunya.

This event will be presented entirely online. A Zoom link will be sent to you in the week before the event.

A recording is expected to be available for a few weeks after the event: you will receive an email when this is ready to view.

www.efdss.org/whats-on/61-conferences/13207-library-lecture-stephen-rowley-2024

more excerpts from 'The Dictionary of the Dance'

by W.G.Raffe

Saltarello -1 (Italy)

A 15th and 16th century court dance, the "afterdance" to the Passamezzo. The music, in triple time, was often based on that for the first dance, which was in duple time. From saltare, "to jump" the name indicates the springing or hopping movements of the dance, in contrast to the terre-a-terre style of its companion. Antonio Cornazano's 15th-century manuscript, *Libro-dell'Arte Danzore* (in the Vatican Library) refers to the Saltarello as "the gayest of all dances and the Spanish call it Alta Danza . . ." It also formed part of the later Balletti as, for example, in the Brando *Alto Regina*,* arranged as *Intrada*, *Contrapasso*, *Saltarello*, *Gagliardo*, all repeated and ending with a *Finale*. This Saltarello, in 3/2 time, was danced with hopped steps and side leaps. Partners approached each other, linked right arms and revolved twice, then changed places and circled to the left-repeated with left arms linked, and followed by a sequence with partners facing each other and dancing sideways.

Saltarello -2 (Italy)

An old courting dance of central Italy, belonging to Romagna; also danced in the Marche and the Abruzzi, with many local variations. The girl holds her apron throughout the dance, which is one of retreat and pursuit; offering by the man; rejection, coy by-play, and final acceptance by the girl. The couple move in a semi-circle, tempo gradually increasing, and the dance is a mimed flirtation without set figures. In some places an accordion and small drum accompany the dance, with music in 3/8 or 6/8 time, but the drum is the principal instrument for a Saltarello, a vigorous drum-beat being the signal for a leap by both dancers. Said to belong specially to gardeners and vine-growers, it is performed out of doors, often with bare feet. The Neapolitan *Seccarora* alternates with or includes the Saltarello.

Jamaja Labajalg Estonia

From the teaching of Aily Esraat

Couples proper in open peasant hold, facing line of dance.

Steps: Estonian waltz, toe-taps, walking.

Chorus

Bar 1 Both partners step L. foot, lift R. foot. Bar 2 Both partners step R. foot, lift L. foot. Bars 3-8 Repeat Bars 1-2.

Figure 1 – Waltz

Bars 1-8 Couple in peasant hold, arms as straight as possible. Waltz with the half turn on the third beat:- Each bar Count 1 with leading foot, side step in l.o.d. Count 2 close trailing foot to leading foot. Count 3 Step onto leading foot, couple making half turn.

Chorus

Figure 2 – Step-swing

Couple holding inside hands.

Bar 1 Count 1 with leading foot, side step in l.o.d.

Counts 2 and 3 swing trailing foot across leading leg.

Bar 2 Repeat Bar 1 against l.o.d. on opposite feet.

Bar 3 Partners turn single on leading foot (Woman clockwise, Man anticlockwise). Bar 4 Bring feet together. Bars 5-8 Repeat Bars 1-4.

Chorus

Figure 3 – toe-tapping

Couple in peasant hold, arms as straight as possible. Waltz with the half turn on the first beat; Bar 1 Man Count 1 Step onto L. foot; couple making half turn. Count 2 tap R. toe. Count 3 tap R. toe.

Woman Count 1 Step onto R. foot; couple making half turn.

Count 2 Step L. Count 3 Step R. Bar 2 Man as for Woman in Bar 1.

Woman as for Man in Bar 1. Bars 3-8 Repeat Bars 1-2.

Chorus

Figure 4 – Little Mill

Couple take two hand hold placing R. hand on partner's waist (L. side). Bars 1-8 Both walk clockwise round partner, one step to each count.

Jamaja Labajalg

(Estonia)

Intro -----

9

17

25

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Jamaja Labajalg

I'm so glad you're featuring this dance. It's definitely 'endangered'. There's a video on the SIFD archive of Aili teaching it on a day course in 1991.

The name of the dance means 'The flat-footed dance from Jamaja' (Jamaja is one of the islands off the coast of Estonia). As the name indicates, it's danced with minimal rising off the heel, most particularly in the chorus figure in which the 'flat-footedness' is most striking.

The first figure is a waltz. Aili stressed that, unusually, the majority of the turn is on the third beat. You can see this on the part of the video where Aili and Karin run through the dance before everyone does it to the music. The third figure of the dance is also a waltz but is adapted so that the couple make almost all of the half turn in the first two beats of the bar and the dancer on the outside of the circle makes two toe-taps with their right foot on beats 2 and 3. It's a very charming little decoration.

Anne Leach

Next month **Bourrée Pastourelle** from France will be featured - does anyone know it? Or is it already extinct? **Ed.**



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



WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

Saturday 13th YGRA AT BALKANPLUS see page 5

Sunday 14th NEW YEAR PARTY at Calver Village Hall 11.00 to 16.00. Dancing to our favourite tunes! Bring & Share lunch. Refreshments provided. Further information from Greg on gregboyd99@aol.com or Gill on seller123@btinternet.com

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

