

SIFD News



February 2024

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Packaging, posting and electronic distribution by Dalila Heath.

It is my sad duty to announce that **Fiona Howarth** has died after a lengthy struggle with Lymphoma; an article from **Frank Dowling** will follow next month. There is a letter about Fiona from **Anne Leach** (*page 6*).

For myself, I loved learning dances from Fiona - she was a truly memorable teacher.

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The Chinese New Year falls on 10 February - The Year of the Dragon. Hence the cover picture and motif. There will be a Chinese New Year festival in central London with parades and public celebrations, dance and music. It has now become the most extensive Chinese New Year event outside of China. Southampton city centre also has a public festival, along with many other cities.

On the back page is a photo from Chrisandra Harris of dancers from the Black Sea area of Turkey at the Kadirga dance festival to accompany her article (*page 8*).

Ed.



A piano accordion is for sale @ £760 (half the shop price!). The model is Delicia, 72 bass, seven couplers, built-in mikes, good condition, with soft case.

For collection from north-east London. Email: contact@dunav.org.uk

Caroline Thomas

Leader, Dunav Balkan Group (SIFD Associate)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mar.2-3: NUTBROOK DANCE WEEKEND with Mariette Van Gelder at Stapleford Community Hall, Cliffe Hill Ave, Stapleford NG9 7HD. & Bramcote Memorial Hall, NG9 3HD. Sat.11am-8.30pm, 5pm- shared supper, evening dance 6.30pm. Sun.11am-3pm. Weekend £40. Sat. day + evening £30. ½day £12. Sun.£15. info: 0115 9171831 (see page 6)
www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk or *Gill.morral@ntlworld.com*

S.I **Mar.9: BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. £10 (cash only please). An evening of dance with varied dance leaders. *maureen.felton@btinternet.com* or *www.balkanplus.org.uk*

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.

S.I **Apr.7: SUNDAY AFTERNOON SIFD DANCE** see page 9

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

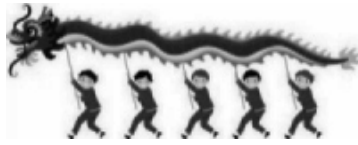
May 3-6 MAY HEYDAYS *mayheydays.org.uk*

S.I **June 2: SUNDAY AFTERNOON SIFD DANCE** see page 9

S.I **June 8: BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. £10 (cash only please). An evening of dance with varied dance leaders. enquiries: *maureen.felton@btinternet.com* or *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.*



Nutbrook Weekend - Venue Change

Nutbrook I. F. D. G. Weekend of Dance March 2nd/3rd 2024
Venue Change:

Further to our recent notice in S.I.F.D. News about our weekend of Dance 2nd and 3rd March, with Mariette Van Gelder, there is a change to the advertised Saturday venue.

Our usual venue at Bramcote Memorial Hall is now no longer available to us on Saturday March 2nd.

The workshop, supper and evening dance will now be held at **Stapleford Community Hall**, Cliffe Hill Avenue, Stapleford NG9 7HD. The hall is accessed from the public car park Cliffe Hill Avenue, off Toton Lane, Stapleford.

If looking at Google maps the hall may come up as Baby Sparks Sensory (Maycliffe Hall has been demolished and is now a small block of flats). This is just a class held in the hall during the week.

The car park is a long stay car park costing £1 for 12 hours which will be reimbursed if you have a day ticket or weekend ticket. There are electric car charging points in the car park.

Sunday March 3rd will be as planned at Bramcote Memorial Hall.

Following the weekend of dance there is an opportunity to join us for a meal at a local pub for a Sunday Roast. This needs pre booking. If anyone is interested I can email more details with a menu.

Further information re directions or meal contact
gill.morral@ntlworld.com or gill2morral@gmail.com

Gill Morral

Fiona Howarth

Members throughout the society will be saddened to learn of the death of **Fiona Howarth**. An outstanding dancer and inspirational teacher, her influence has been enormous and will, no doubt, be enduring.

Fiona's teaching was justly famed and inimitable. I am privileged to have been in many of Fiona's classes, beginning as an eight-year-old in Mrs. Howarth's dance club. Day courses, summer schools, I've followed her feet in all of these. Still, I find it hard to identify exactly how she was so astonishingly effective.

She was totally prepared, unfailingly clear and sharply observant, of course, but she was more than all of these. Fiona had an extraordinary talent for making dances memorable. Her classes were events. She conducted a workshop with the sense of theatre and the panache of a conjuror. You came away not only feeling you had acquired the spirit of the dance but also thinking, "How did she do that!" One group recently danced a collection of 'Fiona Dances' in tribute to all they'd learnt from her. They found they were identifying all the dances, not by name, but by the ingenious mnemonics that Fiona had invented to make them memorable. Job done, then!

But I think there's even more to it than all of this. Fiona was committed to communicating the dance and the essence of the dance and she was utterly generous with the material. For all the excitement and entertainment of her classes, she never failed, ultimately, to stand to one side and make the dances themselves the focus. This is why I am so sure that her legacy will be a lasting one. I have learnt so much from Fiona. She has been my teacher and my friend and her spirit will always be dancing.

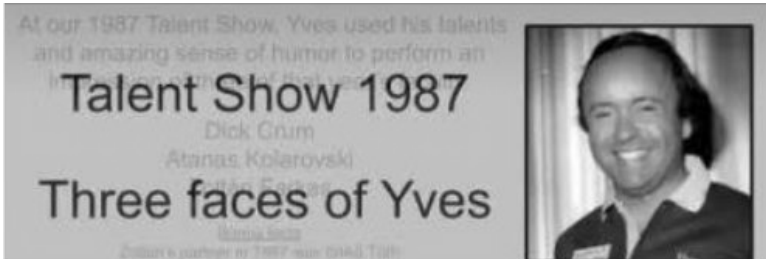
Anne Leach



Yves Moreau

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_bwuLC1exuI

For a reminder of what a joyful person Yves Moreau was, and what an amazing dancer, see the Three Faces of Yves -1987 Talent Show.



Toni Gutman



Remembering Yves Moreau with Hazel Young.

Sadly we lost Yves Moreau in 2023. A warm, generous man and a great teacher who was passionate about the dance and music traditions of the Balkans, particularly Bulgaria. Join me for a feast of dances from the Balkans I learnt from Yves Moreau. One or two of the dances will be more challenging, but all the dances will be repeated several times to help us go deeper into the dances. We will also encounter some old favourites.

The day will not be suitable for beginners.

On: Sunday 17th March 2024 11:00 am - 4:30 pm.

At: Horsley Village Hall, Nailsworth, near Stroud, Glos GL6 OPT.

Cost: Before 1st March (special early bird rate) : £22 After 1st March : £25 - £35 (sliding scale) advance booking absolutely essential with full payment as places will be limited.

Contact: Email: hazel@hazelyoung.co.uk tel: 01453 834 125
www.hazelyoung.co.uk

Bring vegetarian food for a shared meal. Please note the day will start promptly at 11:00am, so please aim to arrive in good time for that essential pre-dance cuppa and chat.

Hazel Young

Learning village dances

For the last 25 years I have travelled extensively, especially through Greece, Armenia, Turkey and central Asia, Nepal and India learning and studying village culture and dance. Nothing is so thrilling, moving, and heart-warming as these traditional and sometimes really ancient dances. After all, if a dance has survived two thousand years it must be really special. The dances often have stories, rituals or specific celebrations or customs associated with them. Dancing with village people is incredible. People who have danced their dances all their lives, who live and breathe their dance in everyday life. Frequently I have been welcomed with open arms into these dance circles by people with whom I have no language in common but we have spoken through our common love of dance.

What I have learnt goes far beyond dance or steps or even music. I have learnt about survival, tenacity, perseverance, patience, love, respect, generosity, gratitude, joy, humour, honouring the earth, honouring our ancestors, loss, death, growth, friendship..... the gifts have just been endless.

Slowly I began to take others with me on these trips to dance with local teachers and villagers and with ever increasing numbers groups have travelled with me to Istanbul, Bursa, Cappadocia, South East Turkey, Corfu, Pelion, to the Roma people in Turkish Thrace, Armenia (several times) and Black Sea Turkey. Everything of course came to a halt at the beginning of 2020 and all plans for future trips had to be cancelled.

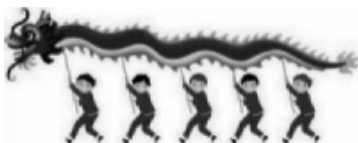
Now that we are able to travel again, I am very excited to be able to invite others to join me on two new trips to Georgia and Azerbaijan in September 2024 and to Village India in 2025. Both of these trips have involved a huge amount of planning and organisation but I have local people who I know I can rely on who will take good care of us and offer us some amazing experiences. Sometimes these trips involve a small amount of discomfort, maybe some days with long journeys and plumbing that isn't always like ours in the UK.

They are maybe not 'holidays' in the conventional sense of the world but adventures into traditional dance and culture. The main criteria to really get the most out of these travels is an open heart, a smile and a willingness to laugh when things don't go as planned. These journeys only happen once, they are too special to attempt to repeat them.

If you are interested, there are detailed programmes available for both of these trips, just ask and I can send them to you.

Chrisandra Harris

Chrisandraharris@gmail.com



Sunday Afternoon SIFD Dances in London

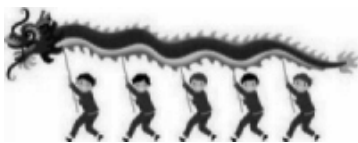
Following requests at the AGM the Committee are happy to announce that we have been able to book the Trefusis hall at Cecil Sharp House on two Sunday afternoons, Sunday 7th April and Sunday 2nd June.

The hall is booked from 2pm to 6pm so the dance will be from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Our MC will be Anne Leach and the SIFD Band will provide the music.

Please put the dates in your diary and hopefully as it is in the afternoon more people will be encouraged to travel into London.

Looking forward to meeting up again,

The Committee



Bourrée Pastourelle

France

10 G D7 G D7 G

19 D7 G D7 G X 3

26 C G7 C

34 G7 C G7 C G7

34 C X 3

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Having looked on the internet I believe I have danced the **Bourrée Pastourelle** (not knowing its name) at French Bals in the south of England. It was followable, here follows a rough notation:

Couples in a circle: The bourrée step is danced throughout.

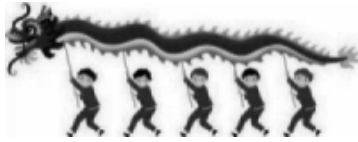
All circle. Men and ladies alternate into the centre and back. Grand chain. do-si-do partners then counter partners. Men twirl successive ladies on one place. Repeat men and ladies alternate into the centre and back.

Ed.



The **Dança de Vilanova Geltru** from Spain will be featured in the next edition. Is it still danced? Does anybody remember it?

Ed.



SIFD Committee

mail@SIFD.org

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



WHAT'S ON IN FEBRUARY

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

Friday 9th MACEDONIAN WITH FILIP & STOJAN, 8pm - 10.30pm £10. Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BW

Saturday 10th YGRA AT BALKANPLUS 7 - 10.pm. (Practice steps with Charlotte & Gabor: 7pm-7.45pm.) live music by Ygra 8pm - 10pm: Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, London. NW1 7AY £10 on the door or in advance via Ygra facebook page:
www.facebook.com/ygraband/



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

