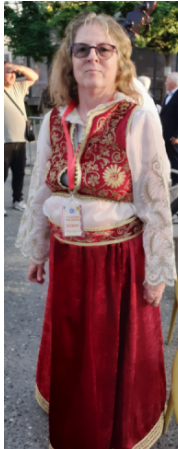


Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD News



August 2024

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

The front cover pictures show Penny's group, in their Albanian costumes, dancing at the Aulona Festival. The back cover has photos of the Zivko Firfov costumes described below.

Ed.



Zivko Firfov's group is trying to find good homes for the following costumes:

Croatian costumes: from Posavina - (*left on back cover*): these costumes were made in former Yugoslavia specially for the group. These costumes have the advantage of fitting most sizes.

Macedonian costumes: from Skopje - (*right on back cover*) women's costumes only but we do have men's and women's costumes for the Macedonian.

If you are interested, please contact Joan Sach either on 07811626438 or by email on pawsdandy@gmail.com.

Dany Baker



Aulona Interfolk Festival

After a successful group visit to the Aulona Festival in Vlorë, Albania, I would like to take a group again next May and the festival organiser, Sejmen Gjokoli is very much in favour of another group coming for Albanian dance lessons and to perform at the festival. I do not have the dates for next week, but would like to publish them as early as possible. For those who felt that London flights were not convenient to them, there are now Ryanair flights from Manchester and Birmingham.

Penny Munden

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **Sep. 14-15: BALKANPLUS WITH VIRGIL TĂBUŞ** (see opposite)

Oct. 3- 6: TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL with Morena Slovak Dancers www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Oct. 5: NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP (see below)

Oct. 12-13: WORKSHOP WITH IRA WEISBURD Oving, near Chichester. rosemary.gledhill38@gmail.com

Nov. 16: BULGARIAN DANCE COURSE with Desi Radulovska at Calver Village Hall 10.30 - 16.30. Further details from Greg Boyd on gregboyd99@aol.com or 07810181273.



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 Dance Workshop

A reminder about Nutbrook Dance Workshop – 5 October 2024
Chrisandra Harris will lead a day of mainly Greek dances, including some lesser known ones. She might also include one or two from her recent travels to Azerbaijan and Georgia.

Venue: Bramcote Memorial Hall, Nottingham, NG9 3HD, 11am – 4pm, Cost £10.00. Contact Gill Morral for more information on: gill.morral@ntlworld.com or 0115 9171831

Trish Griffiths

Balkan and Int. Folk Dance Workshops at Sidmouth Folk Festival

I am teaching some Balkan and non-partner International folk dance workshops at Sidmouth. If you happen to be in the area it would be lovely to see you there.

The workshops are in All Saints church hall, Sidmouth and are as follows:

Thursday 8th August: 2:15 - 3:35pm easier Balkan folk dances
4:00 - 5:20pm slightly more challenging Balkan folk dances

Friday 9th August: 2:15 - 3:35pm non-partner International folk dances

Cathy Meunier



September Balkanplus Romanian dance weekend

Balkanplus 14th & 15th September Romanian dance weekend with Virgil Tăbuș from Romania, his first visit to the UK.

Saturday 14th September in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 11.00am - 4.00pm followed by the regular Balkanplus evening dance 6pm - 9pm.

Sunday 15th September at St Paul's CE School, 1 Elsworthy Road, NW3 3DS from 11.00am - 4.00pm.

£30 for Saturday day workshop, £10 for the Saturday Balkanplus evening, £35 for Saturday day and evening

£25 for Sunday day workshop

£50 for the whole weekend

Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our website www.balkanplus.org.uk

Maureen Felton

Aulona Inter-Folk Festival, Vlora, southern Albania

A Personal View

On 23rd May a group of twelve people from various parts of the UK met at Tirana airport for a 2 ½ hour minibus journey to the coastal town of Vlora and the seafront Duka Hotel, our base for the next five nights.

Situated in picturesque Vlora bay and a 30 minute walk from the Festival stage, the hotel was conveniently placed for the evening programme of performances by the groups participating in the competition. These groups were from Albania, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Kosovo, North Macedonia, Rumania and Ukraine.

The Festival director, Sejmen Gjokoli, had planned that our group should learn some Albanian dances and perform them on the final evening of the Festival. We were to be taught these dances by Albanian dancer and choreographer Puen Bajrati, in a side room of our hotel, most mornings of our stay in Vlora.

Multi-lingual Penny Munden, our trip organiser, acted as interpreter and go-between with Sejmen and Puen to arrange the logistics of our dance sessions and fitting of our costumes, representative of various regions of Albania, which we hired locally for the performance.

Evening showers on two nights of the Festival, leading to the abandonment of the rest of those nights' performances, meant that the rest of the planned Festival programme was compressed into shorter performances and our slot was reduced to one dance of the four we had learnt from Puen.

This dance, a southern Albania version of the dance Valle Pogonishte, was to be our moment of fame! Danced widely in Albania and known by many of us with a different choreography and music, we practised Puen's choreography during our morning dance sessions, so that we were ready to take to the Flamurtari Square stage, located next to the football stadium in the town centre.

Fortunately, there were no rain interruptions and we were scheduled as the seventh group to perform, going on stage at around 8.30pm. Thankfully, Puen was performing with us, despite having already performed energetically with other groups earlier in the evening.

Penny led the line of nine dancers as we nervously began the dance and she partnered Puen in the couples section of the choreography.

At the end of our performance, the audience gave us a warm reception and kindly applauded our efforts.

I felt honoured that we had been allowed to perform a signature Albanian dance as a group of enthusiastic Foreigners, but this was typical of the warmth and hospitality we were shown by the Albanian people during our visit, from the lovely staff at our hotel, who kept us well fed and for whom nothing was too much trouble, to Sejmen and Puen, our Festival contacts and of course our minibus driver, who ferried us around during our afternoon excursions and picked up members of the Greek group performing at the Festival, for an impromptu dance on the bus!

Thanks to Penny for organising the trip and acting as interpreter, a role also taken on by a member of our party who regularly spends time in Albania herself.

In this report I have just concentrated on the bare bones of our visit, but I would urge anybody reading this to go to Albania and experience the physical beauty of the country for themselves and delve into its chequered history to reveal a resilient people who are moving forward to an optimistic future.

Gary Harding

member of Horo Sheffield IFDG led by Greg Boyd





Further excerpts from **'The Dictionary of the Dance'**

by W.G.Raffe

Ula-No-Weo (Hawaii)

A standing hula in fast tempo, using a hopping step (uwehe). With body leaning slightly forward, knees are bent and hands hover gracefully over the knees. Gestures and movements symbolically indicate various colours, changing steps representing changing shades. Main symbol is the ilima flower and its brilliant "royal" yellow shades, the dance being associated with the Hawaiian Queen Kapiolani. Red, yellow and purple were royal colours.

Uli-Uli-Noho (Hawaii)

"Gourd sitting". A hula in which dancers, seated on the ground, each hold in one hand a gourd rattle, decorated with brightly coloured feathers. There is no musical accompaniment beyond chanting and the beat of rattles. This hula depicts, by graceful movements of shoulders, arms and the upper body, the sport of surfing. The name of the accompanying chant Heeiha - is that of a specially good surfing place, once popular with Hawaiian kings.





Polish couple circa 1934

Gasior

Poland

Musical score for 'Gasior' in G minor, 2/4 time. The score consists of two staves. The first staff contains measures 1-5, and the second staff contains measures 6-10. Chord symbols are provided below the notes: Gm, D, Gm, D, Gm (measures 1-5); Cm, D7, Gm, Cm, D7, Gm (measures 6-10). A fermata is placed over the final note of the second staff.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



According to my research **Gašior** is a dance from Górny Śląsk (Upper Silesia) in southwestern Poland. Couples dance in a circle, the second part is fast. It is pronounced Gonshor, and means gander.

Paschada Flugs-ummi (!!) from Austria will feature next month. If you can enlighten us about it, please do. **Ed.**



Black antique lace from Seville with deep crimson highlights.



SIFD Committee

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WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

Thursday 8th BALKAN DANCE WORKSHOPS at Sidmouth Folk Festival (see page 5)

Friday 9th INT. FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP at Sidmouth Folk Festival (see page 5)

Fri.16th/Sun.18th SOUTH DOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL
Plumpton College, near Lewes, East Sussex. BN7 3AE. Sessions of various types of dance lead by participants. Usually European Folk, Circle, Israeli and English Folk dance.
suekewley@outlook.com or phone 07743 907569.



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