



BRITISH-UZBEK SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

JUNE 1, 2022



Welcome to the June newsletter of the British Uzbek Society. As you may have noticed, the BUS website is currently offline, so please follow us on [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) for updates whilst we prepare the new site. You can also find out below what the society has been doing and has planned, as well as other relevant news about Uzbekistan.

UPCOMING EVENTS





BUS next event, rescheduled for 8 June, is International dance festival '**Lazgi**': Reflections on Uzbekistan's famous dance and beyond. It will take place from 18.30 - 21.00 at the Embassy of Uzbekistan, 41 Holland Park, and all BUS members are welcome to attend.

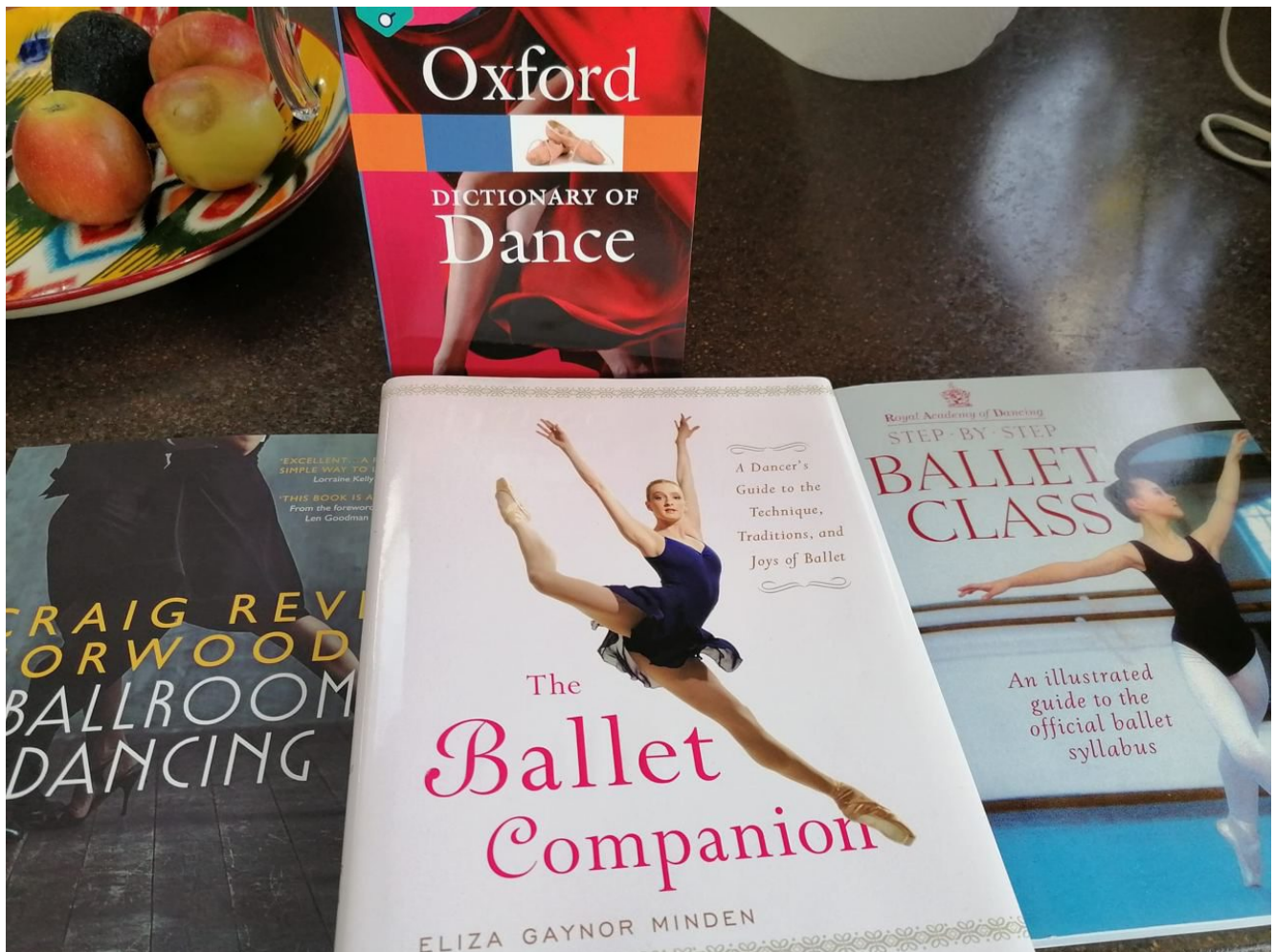
A panel of four speakers who will provide an overview of the Lazgi International Dance Festival and conference which took place in Khiva, Uzbekistan in April 2022. Firstly, **Rosa Vercoe**, Vice-Chair of BUS, and **Ann David**, Professor of Dance and Cultural Engagement at the University of Roehampton, will give an illustrated talk. Rosa and Ann both attended the festival and presented papers at the conference. They will speak about the origins of Lazgi and its importance for the image of modern Uzbekistan, and examine connections with other international dance forms.

In the second part of the evening **Eva Scala**, Director of Global Heritage UK, and **Dr Fariborz Kiannejad**, the founder of Nava Arts, will talk about the importance of this kind of festival, with a particular focus on artists from countries where dance is not an officially recognised art form. Parallels will be drawn with the **Boysun Bahori Festival**, as well as other art forms which Eva and Fariborz observed during their three week stay in Uzbekistan. Their talk will include personal observations and reflections, and be accompanied by images and videos taken during this magnificent event.

RECENT EVENTS

In April 2022, BUS Vice-Chair Rosa Vercoe visited the National Academy of Dance and Choreography in Tashkent. On behalf of the BUS she presented a selection of books to the Director of the Academy, **Professor Shukhrat Tokhtassimov**.

The idea of presenting books to the Academy of Dance was born following a brilliant performance by Shirin Jalilova at the BUS Annual Reception in 2019. You can watch her performance on the BUS YouTube channel [here](#). Guests at the reception donated money for the books, but due to the Covid-19 travel restrictions, there was a delay in delivering them to Uzbekistan. We very much hope that these wonderful books will form a nice addition to the library at the Academy of Dance.



MEMBERS' NEWS

BUS offers a very warm welcome to **Davron Aliakbarov**, who has recently joined the Embassy of Uzbekistan in London as Consul. Davron replaces Sultanbek Imamov, who has returned to Tashkent. We hope that Davron has a wonderful experience living and working in the UK. Should you need to contact Davron about consular issues, his email address is consul@uzembassy.uk.

BUS would also like to congratulate **Scala Publishers** on this month's launch of [The Story of Babur: Prince, Emperor, Sage](#). This illustrated children's edition of the **Baburnama** will be available in English, Uzbek, and Braille versions, and has been produced with the support of the [Arts and Culture Development Foundation of Uzbekistan](#).

RECENT ARTICLES ABOUT UZBEKISTAN

Central Asia risk analyst **Sophia Burna-Asefi** wrote [China and Uzbekistan: An Emerging Development Partnership?](#) for *The Diplomat*. This article offers valuable insight into how Uzbekistan is leveraging its relationship with China to address geographical and logistical challenges.

Farmers Weekly published British farmer **John Pawsey's** short but interesting [article](#) with his observations of travelling in Uzbekistan. He commented on both the "pretty good-looking green wheat crops" and the newly established agroforestry projects.

Bradt Travel Guides included Uzbekistan's **Chorsu Bazaar** in its round-up of the [world's best markets](#), and British tour operator Cox & Kings published a detailed blog about [why you should visit Uzbekistan](#).

EVENTS IN UZBEKISTAN

Throughout June the [Mehrigiyo Ecotourism Center](#) in **Kokand** will be hosting its annual Lavender Festival. You have probably seen photos of the lavender fields in **Provence**, and we assure you that those in the Fergana Valley are just as beautiful! Mehrigiyo not only grows lavender but also herbs, tropical fruits, and they are even experimenting with growing coffee in greenhouses.




ABOUT THE BRITISH UZBEK SOCIETY

The British Uzbek Society (BUS) is an independent, non-political organisation. It was formally established in July 2002 with the aim of supporting and helping to facilitate cultural, educational and people-to-people links between the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. The Society organises a monthly programme of events including lectures, forums, and cultural activities. BUS membership is open to all and the cost for an individual member is £50 per year. Students benefit from a specific discount and pay just £25. Find out more about the BUS and apply for membership [here](#). We look forward to seeing you at our next event.

[BUS website](#)



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