

SIFD News



October 2019

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

The front cover shows two girls from the region of Moravské Slovácko (see Dal Sudwell's item on page 7), and the motif to complement it is Anna Huston's drawing - "Czechoslovakia".

Don't forget about Dance Around The World later this month, details are on page 5 and the back page.

Ed.



Thoughts at 90

Bourrée, Waltz, Poitou Quadrille,
In my mind I dance them still,
But to venture on the floor,
That, alas, I can no more.

Pravo, Hambo, Sherelee,
Are all there in memory,
But by far the best of joys,
Men and women, girls and boys,
All my partners, such good friends,
Remembered 'til the dancing ends.

Simon G



SIFD Dances

Brenda (me!) and Philip Steventon are our MC's on 6th October and the dance is held at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. The SIFD Band will be playing for us and we start prompt at 6.45pm finishing in time to clear hall by 9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm).

Dates for the future dances are Sunday 3rd November and Sunday 1st December.

See you there,

Brenda Steventon

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **Nov. 3: SIFD DANCE** see page 3

Nov. 9: DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE. A day of dance at Calver Village Hall S32 3XR from 1030 to 1630. Cost for the day £10. For further details and to book please contact Janet (01629 57065) j.king194@btinternet.com or Greg at gregboyd99@aol.com (07810181273).

S.I **Nov. 9: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Fiona Howarth held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, 7.00pm. £6.

Nov. 10: WYMESWOLD LEICS - GREECE TO THE EAST led by Chrisandra Harris - dances from Greece, Turkey, Armenia & central Asia. contact Zara: zaramangan@gmail.com tel. 01509 881450

S.I **Dec. 1: SIFD DANCE** see page 3

S.I **Dec. 14: BALKANPLUS** - MCs will be the Zivko Firfov Group plus there will be music from Dunav held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £8.

S.I **Feb. 5–10: RIVIERADANCE 2020** Residential Balkan and beyond folk dance holiday with Erik Bendix (dances from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Armenia) and Caspar Bik (dances from the Black Sea area – Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia and part of Russia). 5 nights full board, ensuite hotel accommodation, award winning chef, Torquay. Dance course options. Prices from £435 (dancers); £335 (non-dancers). For details and a booking form please contact Cathy Meunier email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com website: www.balkanfolkdance.org or send s.a.e to 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX

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.*



Dance Around the World 2019 - 26/27 October

Yes, we're going dancing around the world for the NINETEENTH time. Regulars know that it's the not-to-be-missed event of the folk dancing year. And if you haven't been before, I can promise that you'll love it as much as we all do. Forty odd dance groups (yes, I've counted them), representing around thirty different countries. And when you've worn yourself out at the workshops, well, you just sit and watch the performances. Each year brings us something unexpected - a few years back it was the Maoris, now popular favourites, and last year we saw Japanese dance for the first time.

Who knows what this year will bring?

See "What's on in October" for details of times and prices.

Maggie O'Regan



HF Holidays

Our HF International Folk Dancing with Walking Holidays for 2020 are now taking bookings.

3 Night International Folk Dancing with Walking led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing in the morning and evening, 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader.

Mar 20th - 23rd 2020 at Newfield Hall, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire BD23 4AA

Nov 6th - 9th 2020 at Harrington House, Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire GL54 2BY

For details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649

Phil & Brenda Steventon



Folk Dance in Bognor Regis



Every year in our group we take dances from one or two countries and practice them throughout the year with the aim of displaying the (perfected?) dances at local events such as the Southdowns Folk Festival in Bognor Regis. Local Morris and folk dancers give displays around the town, including us: BRIDE (Bognor Regis International Dance Ensemble). In 2013 we danced Greek dances (wearing costumes borrowed from the SIFD); Turkish and Kurdish in 2014; Polish and Hungarian in 2015; mixed international selection in 2016, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese in 2017.

We hoped to show French dances last year, but one of our dancers gave birth (two months premature) to a little girl over the 2018 Festival weekend. Her husband, mother, and aunt are part of the group - so we were more or less wiped out for the first day. The next day a few of us attempted to show some French but after just three dances the rain came.

The weather this year was kinder, we danced our French dances, and several English dances the next day, ending up dancing in the pub. The photo shows our baby in her French costume - but she has to be tied up while we dance; no doubt she will dance with us one day but at present she is confined to 'singing' and clapping.

Janet Douglas

Moravské Slovácko

Moravské Slovácko, or Moravian Slovakia, is the south-eastern area of Moravia (Moravia is the eastern part of the Czech republic, Bohemia being the western part), bordering on Slovakia to the east and Austria to the south. It is a very distinct folkloristic region, especially as far as music and dance are concerned. The most popular instruments are fiddle and cimbalom. A typical dance is verbunk, dance of recruits, which has even been registered on the list of Masterpieces of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity by UNESCO. Every year at the end of June, ever since 1946, in a small town of Strážnice is held a popular international folk festival, which is an excellent opportunity to soak up the region's culture.

Moravian Slovakia is known for its colourful folk architecture. Many houses are decorated both outside and inside, with beautiful ornamental patterns on walls and particularly around the doors and windows. And the folk costumes are among the prettiest in the Czech republic. The ladies' ones often use exquisite hand-made lace. The life in the region is further enhanced by excellent locally produced wine and slivovitz.

Dal Sudwell



Korobushka

Rainmakers also danced the version of the dance that Heather and Ian described in the September News. I think we clapped and shouted 'Hey' in part 2 (Ian's version) but perhaps (knowing us) we kicked as well (Heather's version)!

We had a Russian recording of the tune, which alternated with another, so we used the latter to dance Karapyet. (The cassette was labelled 'Koro/Kara'). The tunes played seven times. We had a lot of energy then but we were 43 years younger!

We enjoy the Russian folk dances that are more popular now but are pleased that the social dances were introduced in the early 60s.

Thank you for a trip down memory lane.

Jill Bransby

Korobushka

Dear Janet,

I rarely put pen to paper so to speak, but I did look up the above dance; Although I have not danced it for a while.

I have notes from two sources. Both are as published.

1. Gives a reference to a recording viz: Folk Dancer CMH 1059.
2. From the American published 'Folk Dances of European Countries'

This is dated 1948 so the dance must have been in existence before that date. They translate it as 'Peddler's Pack'.

The instructions are much as has been stated; with one version in long-ways formation, and the other as a circle and progressive.

John Pittman



Tsone Milo Chedo

I'm here again.

The instructions for the above dance are in the Bulgarian volume of the book series 'Handbooks of European National Dances'.*

John Pittman

* thanks to John for pointing this out - here are the relevant extracts:

Tsone Milo Chedo - (Tsone, dear child)

Region: Zemen, Kyustendil district, and Dimitrovo (formerly Pernik).

Character: Beginning with a moderately quick, easy movement, increasing gradually, decreasing again, to end in a prestissimo.

Formation: For any number of dancers, men and women, one behind the other with hands on hips, facing C-C in a circle. A few dancers begin, and gradually others take their places behind them. Some carry a kerchief which they wave. The rebec player (gadular) stands in the centre of the circle. Towards the end all join hands in a chain, the dance ending in a Horo in very quick tempo accompanied by a song or a drum.

Dance: The 14/16 rhythm is beaten in four, i.e. I-2, I-2, I, I-2, and counted s., s., Q., s. The body is turned slightly (not more than 45°) to the R or to the L in the direction of the swinging foot. The man can take the raised foot behind the other in the Swing step.

Bars

Figure I: Moving forward C-C

- 1 Three hopping steps on l foot, swinging the r knee in front and across to the L, out to the R side and straight forward, to step forward on this foot. (Counted s., s., Q., s., and s. for the step forward)
- 2 Repeat movements of bar 1, but the hops are taken on the r foot, and so on.
- 3-4 Repeat movements of bars 1 and 2.
The man's step is slightly different from the woman's-on the first two hops he swings the r foot across behind the l, so that the r knee faces to the R and the heel to the L.

Figure II: Horo (Chain Dance). Moving C-C.

The joined hands are held about shoulder level, with the elbows bent, and are swung in rhythm.

- 1 Step on r foot to R (s.). Step on l foot in front of r foot, to R (s.). Spring on to r foot to R with an inward pivot of the r foot, so that the body faces slightly L (2.).
Step on l foot behind r foot and to R (s.).
- 2 Step on r foot to R (s.). Swing l foot across r (s.).
Spring on to l foot with a slight inward pivot of the foot (Q.).
Step r foot behind l foot to L (s.).
- 3 Step on l foot to L (s.). Swing r foot across l foot (s.).
Spring on r foot to R with an inward pivot of this foot (Q.).
Step on to l foot behind r foot to R (s.).
- 4 Repeat movements of bars 1-3, beginning on bar 4.
Repeat whole dance, or Horo only, as often as wished, ending prestissimo.

In this chain dance the dance phrases do not correspond to the musical phrases; therefore begin repeats without reference to the bar number.

“Dances of Bulgaria by Raina Katsarova” 1944.

The Bird

"and she falls to the ground"

Arranged for the Balalaila Dance Group by O Linsell

Text
Text

9
17
25
32
38

Dm Am D D7 Gm Dm A7 Dm A7 Dm
Dm Gm Dm Gm Dm Am Bm Am Em Am
D6 Em Gm Dm Gm Dm
Dm Gm Dm Gm Dm Am Bm Em Am
Em D7 Em Am Em A dim Em B7 Em
Em Am Em rit Em pizz

"Balalaika Group manuscript"

We have no information about **The Bird**.



Next month **Pentuzali** - one of only about four Greek dances in the "Wilf Horrocks' Collection". I wonder if there are any musicians specialising in Greek dance who would be able to contribute to our collection.....

Ed.



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Balkanplus

The October Balkanplus will be held on the 12th October in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and finishing at 10.00pm. MCs for the evening will be The Oxford Group. Admission £6.

Maureen Felton

WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Saturday 5th MALVERN - GREECE TO THE EAST led by Chrisandra Harris, dances from Greece, Turkey, Armenia and central Asia. Sunnara: sunnaravivian@waitrose.com tel. 07779 456975

Sat. 5th- Sun.6th BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP with Ventzi Sotirov & Balkansko Oro Oxford. North Oxford Association Community Centre, Summertown. Oxford. OX2 7DP. Sat.10.30-4.30 £40. Sun.10.30-4.30 £25. W/e. package £55. Cheques payable to Balkansko Oro. SAE to Jill Loveday 44 Richmond Rd Oxford OX1 2JJ tel. 01865 558482

S.I **Sunday 6th SIFD DANCE** - see page 3.

S.I **Saturday 12th BULGARIAN WORKSHOP - VENTZI SOTIROV** 10.30am - 4.30pm at St Paul's CE Primary School, Elsworthy Rd. Ldn NW3 3DS. Workshop: £35. Evening dance 7pm Cecil Sharp House: £6. Combined ticket: £40. Cheque payable to Balkanplus, SAE to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG info: Brian 01992 582717 or www.balkanplus.org.uk or Maureen 01473 272256

S.I **Saturday 12th BALKANPLUS** - see page 11.

S.I **Friday 18th RAINMAKERS 43rd ANNIVERSARY DANCE**, 8pm-11pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PQ. £10.00. MC Jill Bransby, live music from Cloudburst. Bring food to share. Info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).

Fri. 25th - Sat. 28th 3 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING & WALKING led by Phil & Brenda Steventon Dancing morning & evening, 4-5 mile walks with HF leader. HF Holidays, Longmynd House, Church Stretton, Shropshire SY6 6AG tel: HF: 0345 470 8558 or Phil: 020 8397 9649

S.I **Sat. 26th - Sun. 27th DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** - 10.00 am to 11.00 pm 2 days of workshops & performances by over 50 groups from all over the world . Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY. £17 full day (incl. eve) £10 eve. only, £30 whole weekend, £2 red. concessions. info: danceoffice@waitrose.com, 07749 007 040, <http://www.datw.org.uk>, <http://www.datw.org.uk>, 07738 293 157

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