

Society for International Folk Dancing

# SIFD NEWS



# January 2020

**Editor:** Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road,  
Bognor Regis, West Sussex PO21 3EQ.  
Tel: 01243 265010 email: *sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk*

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

Here's wishing that the Twenties will be  
**the Decade of Dance**

The front page shows Sheila and Asha of the recently disbanded Beskydy Dancers (see December News) dancing Zemplín Cardáš; their logo appears below and I have simplified it for use as the motif this month. the back cover picture shows the detail of an apron from the region of Moravské Slovácko, C.R.

\*

The audience at our weekly class usually spends the time lying in her buggy, sometimes singing along for a while, then drifting off to sleep. Last class, she startled us with loud outbursts of laughter. What was so funny? Just us dancing Trommelvals! She calmed down when we waltzed the second figure - only to go off into further peals of laughter every time we started ducking and diving again. I'm not sure that reaction would be welcome from the public - but a 14 month old baby? Just joy. I wish you could have seen it.

Ed.



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Feb. 5–10: RIVIERADANCE 2020** Residential Balkan & beyond with Erik Bendix (dances from Macedonia, Bulgaria, Romania, Armenia) & Caspar Bik (dances from the Black Sea area – Bulgaria, Turkey, Georgia & part of Russia). 5 nights full board, Torquay. from £435 (dancers); £335 (non-dancers). *cathy\_meunier@hotmail.com* website: *www.balkanfolkdance.org* or send s.a.e to Cathy Meunier 23, Church Street, Keswick Cumbria CA12 4DX
- S.I **Feb. 15: BALKANPLUS** - MC will be Meryl Abraham, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6. **NOTE:** This is the **3rd Saturday** in February.
- S.I **Mar. 14: BALKANPLUS** MCs will be Jill Bransby and Rainmakers, held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £6
- Mar 20-23: 3 NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING & WALKING** led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing morning & evening, 4-5 mile walks with HF leader at Newfield Hall, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire BD23 4AA tel: HF: 0345 470 8558 or Phil: 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Apr. 5: GREEK FOLK DANCE** taught by Dimitris Triandafyllidis. 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. at West Wickham Methodist Church Hall, Hawes Lane, West Wickham, Kent, BR4 9AA. On-street parking. £30 to include refreshments. Cheques should be made out to 'Helios' and sent to Sue King, 83 Upland Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5JA.
- S.I **Apr. 24-27 GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Fri. afternoon - Mon. afternoon) (near Alcester, Warwickshire) International Folk Dancing with our special guest Karin Bellaart from the Netherlands. Other varied dancing, making music, handbell ringing, Maypole dancing, part singing, walking and cycling. Being the 37th year of the Long Weekend there is the opportunity to bag an 'Extra Early Bird' Season Ticket for £37.00 if booked by 31st December. For further information see website at *www.greatalnefolk.org.uk* or phone Paul Lindley on 0121 689 1802 or 07913 615002.

## S.I May 1-4: SIFD HALSWAY MAY WEEKEND see page 5



*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.*



### **SIFD Halsway May Weekend 2020**

Friday May 1st – Monday 4th May with option to stay until am 5th May  
International Folk Dances led by Janet Woolbar each evening. With a  
mix of Band and recorded music.

Guided walks Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Time to visit the local area.

We only have non en-suite rooms available. For more information  
Contact Robin Morris 01564773482 or [robinnimbo@aol.com](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com)



### **SIFD January Dance**

The first dance of 2020 will be led by Helene Ezra on Sunday 5th  
January. 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 as usual and we start prompt at 6.45pm, finishing  
in time to clear the hall by 9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm). The  
next dance will be on Sunday 2nd February 2020.

See you there,

**Brenda Steventon**





George Sweetland gave me a selection of old photos, I have used two at random to fill these two pages. Ed.



## Dance books

The following books that belonged to Joe and Sheila Cott are looking for a new home. (Sheila is still dancing but has no need for them.) Any member interested please contact me.

Scottish Dancing: how to do the Eightsome Reel and other Scottish Country Dances, C.W.Newman-Sanders, 1952

Square Dance!, Ralph J. McNair, no date

Greek Dances, Ted Petrides, 1975, revised edition 1980

Also a reminder about the books from John Melville that I mentioned in the September 2018 SIFD News, page 7. Thus far no-one has asked to borrow any of them.

**Richard Mellish**



## Email Address

To all who are on my address list, whether or not I have had any contact with you in recent years. Because Brexit will almost certainly deprive me of my *mellish.eu* domain, if you wish to keep me in your address books please update my address to *Richard@Mellish.uk*

With season's greetings,

**Richard Mellish**



## Balkanplus

The January Balkanplus will be held on the 11th January in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and finishing at 10.00pm.

MC will be Brian Dowsett. Admission £6.

**Maureen Felton**





## Á Chula Portugal

lines of two couples, facing partner M with L shoulder to Presence.

Presence

□→ ←○ □→ ←○

□→ ←○ □→ ←○

etc.↓

On starting chord all face Presence and nod.

FIG.1 "Bob" step. Steps for M, G opp.

Face partner and start away from presence. Step RF to R, step LF across in front of R, step RF bwds, bob and point LF fwds.

L arm across LF on bob and R arm behind back.

Repeat towards Presence, changing arms smoothly.

Repeat complete 3 more times finishing with feet together.

FIG.2 Swish step. Start with arms up high. Music begins "0-ee-o-i---. On "i".step on RF and pivot half turn to R, swishing LF up (knees tog.) and stepping L,R on spot. L arm circles-acw down on swish and up on step L,R. Repeat opp. footwork, stepping on LF and swishing ½ L to face ptr. Repeat making 8 swishes to R and 8 to L in all. Finish facing partner hands together in front.

FIG.3 Couples change places moving cw, centre dancers moving bwds. Small steps in groups of 3 and pause. Clap in time with steps, 4 groups to opposite place.

FIG.4 Repeat Fig-1 twice each way, starting away from Presence.

FIG.5 As Fig. 2

FIG.6 As Fig. 3, back to place.

FIG.7 As Fig.4.

FIG.8 "Horns of the Bull".

All face Presence, arms curved above shoulder height and move in zig-zag diagonally fwd. to R and back and diagonally to L and back. Each movement 3 steps and hop, starting RF' first time, and on 'i' of o-ee-o-i" as before. Repeat 3 more times omitting last movement to L and immediately going into Fig.9.

FIG.9 As Fig.1 Music becomes slower, hold last "bob".

# A Chula

(At First)

(Chorus) Not too fast

Portugal

A Mod. (Intro: Last 4 bars of A Music)

1. 2.

B (Verse) (Steady)

4th time finish on A slowing little by little

Third Time leave out last bar of B music and first bar of A music

## "Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

### Á Chula

I learnt this dance at a Portuguese day course in the days when you made your own notes and recorded the music using cassette recorders.

I omitted to note the date or the name of the tutor.

The dances taught were Verde gaio, Real das Canas, Padeirinha, A Rosa, Vira de Samande, Senhor de Serra and, my favourites, A Gota and Á Chula. Sadly I have very rarely danced the latter since.

In May 1998 at the Eastbourne festival Charles and Joy Steventon led a session on Iberian dances. Although Charles did not teach Á Chula he produced a CD including the music together with his own notes, enclosed. (*previous page*)

Lucile Armstrong in Dances of Portugal (Handbook of European National Dances series) says "Chulas are generally longways with complicated figures and turns in the air. Near Oporto the men carry little sticks between the first and second, second and third fingers, clicking them like castanets. These sticks are called Chulas too, which is not a polite word, but the dancers do not mind that."

**Heather Edwards**



**Doudlebská (Linečká) Polka** will be featured in the February issue - any comments about it are welcome. **Ed.**



## **SIFD Committee**

- Acting  
Chairman** Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN  
*Richard@Mellish.uk* 0208 863 7807
- Treasurer:** Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane,  
Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.  
*judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*
- Secretary:** Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park,  
Hatfield. AL9 7AQ tel: 01707 642774  
*dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*

### **Other Committee Members:**

Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340  
4683 *caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk*

Holly Payling 07784 117599 *hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*

Brenda Steventon 92 Hamilton Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7PT  
020 8397 9649 *brenda.steventon@btinternet.com*

John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67  
8NU *j2ohn@yahoo.com*





## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

S.I **Sunday 5th SIFD DANCE** - see page 5

S.I **Saturday 11th BALKANPLUS** - see page 6

**Saturday 25th OXFORD BALKANSKO ORO NEW YEAR Party.**  
St Margarets Institute, Polstead Rd. OX2 6TN 7pm £10 (under 14 £4)  
including supper Please wear a costume if you would like to



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