

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



APRIL 2020

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

As you will see the coronavirus outbreak has caused three cancellations so far (SIFD Dance and Balkanplus, below, and Great Alne weekend, page 7). It is a good idea to check with organisers before attending any event in the next few months. (The fast dance show I mentioned last month was cancelled too).

If you can't get out to dance - write a letter to the News for your fellow members - we'll need entertaining (Simon has sent an offering, page 5). The cover picture (taken 2013) was from Tanya Allen of her class showing off the Israeli costumes that Sue Clark and PIFD handed on.

Ed.



SIFD April Dance Cancelled

The Committee have taken the precautionary step of cancelling the Primrose Hill Sunday Dance, which was to be held on Sunday 5th April, due to helping to limit the spread of the coronavirus.

The next dance is currently planned for Sunday 10th May 2020 (2nd Sunday), but we will of course reassess the situation nearer the time. Keep well,

Brenda Steventon



Balkanplus Cancelled

Cecil Sharp House has cancelled all events at present, so the April Balkanplus is cancelled because of the COVID-19 / coronavirus outbreak. Balkanplus strongly recommends that anyone intending to come to future events **check first** in the event of changes / cancellation. Website www.balkanplus.org.uk, email Balkanplus@aol.com, or phone Brian Dowsett on 01992 582717



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **May 1-3: MAY HEYDAYS** at De Montfort School, WR11 1DQ in Evesham. Snezana Balkanska (Macedonian), Karin Bellaart (General Int.), French/Breton workshops, live music . Weekend tickets £97. Camping in the school grounds: £20 per person for the weekend. Day tickets (£48) available from 1 Apr. *director@mayheydays.org.uk*
- S.I **May 1-4: SIFD HALSWAY MAY WEEKEND** (option to stay until a.m. 5th May) Int. Folk Dances led by Janet Woolbar each evening, a mix of band and recorded music. Guided walks Sat. Sun. Mon. Time to visit the local area. We only have non en-suite rooms available. More info: Robin Morris 01564773482 or *robinnimbo@aol.com*
- S.I **May 9: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. MCs will be the Barnet Group. Admission £6
- S.I **May 10: SIFD DANCE** see page 3.
- S.I **May 29: FRENCH EVENING**, hosted by **RAINMAKERS IFDG**, live music from Danse Herts musicians, 8-10.45pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £5.00 for the evening. More info from Mark (01462 454210).
- S.I **Jun. 13: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, NW1 7AY, 7.00pm. MCs will be Dalila Heath and Ursula Brown. Admission £6.
- S.I **Sep. 12-13: BULGARIAN DANCE - ILIANA BOŽANOVA** Workshop Sat: 10.30am–4.30pm at St. Paul's CE Primary School *
Balkanplus Party 7pm- 10.30pm at Cecil Sharp House** Sun:10.30am – 4.30pm at Cecil Sharp House** W/shops: Sat. £40 (£30), Sun. £25 (£20), Party £10, W/E package £55 (£45) Early bird prices (brackets) until end of July. Further discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Cheque payable to Balkanplus with SAE to Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG *www.balkanplus.org.uk*
- S.I **Jun. 14: VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS** see page 6
- S.I **Jun. 21: VICTORIA EMBANKMENT GARDENS** see page 6

S.I Sep. 19: BULGARIAN DANCE WORKSHOP & evening party with Iliana Bozhanova & Todor Yankov at Barlow International Folk Dance Group. At St Ninian's Church Hall, Chorlton, Manchester M21 0XJ . More details next month. Full details from Mary O'Mahony 0161 881 0955 or maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk

Oct. 3: WORLD DANCES WITH ANNE LEACH + some by Gill Morral. A mix of partner and non-partner dances. Day course £10.00, ½ day £7.00. Bramcote Memorial Hall, Church Street, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Gill Morral – gill.morral@ntlworld.com or 0115 9171831.

Nov. 6-9: THREE NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING with walking led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing morning & evening, 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader. at Harrington House, Bourton on the Water, Gloucestershire GL54 2BY

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.*



Advice to the Young Dancer

(with a nod to Dylan Thomas)

Do not go gentle into middle age,
Fight, fight against the turning of that page,
Take a stand and shake your fist
At your contemporary's bucket list.
Do not slow down but rather, faster go
And if wild oats remain, then sow!
Yes, it's a parting of the ways
But choose the Polka not the Polonaise.
Forsake the wings and take the centre stage.
Do not go gentle into middle age.

Simon Guest



Martenitsas

Every year on 1st March, Bulgarian people celebrate a centuries-old tradition called the day of Baba Marta meaning Grandma March. It signals the finish of winter and welcoming spring.

On that day for a few days afterwards, Bulgarians exchange and wear 'martenitsas'. They are decorative pieces of red and white twisted or woven threads representing health and happiness and a lucky charm against evil spirits.

They can be made from wool, silk or cotton, and come in many shapes and sizes, bracelets, necklaces, brooches, pompoms and balls.

According to the tradition people wear martenitsas for a certain period, the end of which is usually associated with the first signs of spring. At the end of the month many martenitsas are to be found tied to fruit trees as a lucky charm for a good harvest.

The Kitka Bulgarian Folklore Group show off their martenitsas on the back page.

kitkabfg@gmail.com

Sue Haydock



Victoria Embankment Gardens

I have booked this year's Embankment performances at the Victoria Embankment Gardens, London.

The Doina Eastern European performance is 3-5pm, Sunday June 14th and the Balaton Hungarian one is 3-5pm, Sunday 21st June.

Leslie Haddon



Drenthe on the Move dance festival June 19-21

It will be an annual festival, every 3rd weekend of June, with no fewer than 58 workshops including 26 folk dance workshops!

In addition to international teachers, well-known Dutch names such as Bianca de Jong, Caspar Bik, Dominike Karantzounis, Daniel Sandu, Floortje Doeksen, Maaïke Portegies, Niels van der Steen and Tineke van Geel will be present.

<https://youtu.be/e2O1IE878BI>

From Folk dance to Salsa and Tango, from Urban to Lindy Hop and Hip Hop, from Body Percussion to Capoeira. Dance and singing workshops for all tastes, ages and levels. There will be ongoing dance and theatre for children/youngsters including a presentation.

price: €120.

On Friday night an orchestra and balfolk orchestra kick off the festival of international dances in parallel programmes.

During breaks you will be surprised with street performances and on Saturday night there will be a theatre performance with the professional group 'The Dutch don't dance Division' and many other groups prior to a folk dance ball.

Visit the website www.drenthonthemove.nl

Tineke van Geel, Hoofdweg 54, Nijensleek, 8383EH, Netherlands



Great Alne Long Weekend Cancelled

Friday 24th - Monday 27th April 2020

I am sorry to announce that we have decided not to go ahead with the Great Alne Long Weekend this year. I'm sure you'll understand the reasons behind this decision. I will shortly be in touch with anyone who has purchased early bird tickets to arrange a refund.

Look after yourselves, and we look forward to dancing, singing and making merry with you all again in 2021. Best wishes,

Karen Walford

(Great Alne Folk Long Weekend Bookings Co-ordinator)

Dance Music of Gascony & South-West France

Emmanuel Pariselle & Didier Oliver: Dance Music Of Gascony and South-West France - Workshop for any instrument.

Saturday 13th. June 10.45 - 4.45 Emmanuel, one of the best melodeon players in France, and an expert in French regional dance music. He also plays a specially-designed 'Franglo' concertina. He has taught at Hands-On Music and regularly leads melodeon-building weeks in England.

Didier is a superb fiddler and also dazzles on mandolin, boha (Gascon bagpipes) and guitar. They are favourites at the National Centre for Folk Arts at Halsway Manor. Both are wonderful singers.

Using traditional dance material from Gascony collected in the 1970s & 1980s, the workshop will be based on the three legendary dances of South-West France: the Rondeau (couple & chain) the B'arn Chain Branle and the Captieux Congo. Emmanuel demonstrates harmonies with melodeon and Didier demonstrates melody & style with other instruments. Emmanuel and Didier perform at Lewes Saturday Folk Club in the Evening (tickets from club and website)

<http://www.lewessaturdayfolkclub.org>

This may be of interest to some of our musicians.

Richard Mellish



Dear Janet,

Would one of your members like the following books:

Three small illustrated books by Lucile Armstrong to give away

Dances of Spain (2 Vols, 1950)

Dances of Portugal (1 Vol, 1948)

publishers Max Parrish.

I can mail them within the UK. Please contact Nicky,

n.harmanic@gmail.com

Nicky Harman





Letter:

Happy 2020 to all. We have just spent 80 days in the southern hemisphere with pleasant temperatures 28 or above; smoke from bushfires; a volcanic eruption which has just claimed another life, and our family.

I am always excited to receive the SIFD News but saddened to read of Betty Lee's demise. However, and there always seems to be a however. I was sorry to read that the Rainmakers were sold a bill of good with the Volendam costumes which included klompen. A sale was made in Holland without the salesman advising the purchasers that they were buying a wedding gown which one would not wear with running shoes.

I know the impression given with the wearers is more interesting and the noise is unique but the wearers should know they are contravening a custom. See Klederdracht p 23. There is a very interesting day costume with which they would be acceptable. A friend and I once chased a lady wearing a day costume and eventually she gave us a day top which we could copy. It had a plain black hat, a striped black top, sleeves lined with green and a plain black full length skirt and the infamous klompen.

I hate to be picky but we are particular about costumes from other regions whereas the costumes from the Netherlands have been plagiarised. Many are very beautiful and I have thoroughly enjoyed the 20 years I have spent working with them. My 5 authentic costumes and my klompen have just found a home in the Holland Christian Homes in Brampton, Ontario a Seniors home with 6 large buildings housing older Holland born residents.

Keep dancing. We dance Doudlebska here too

Dorothy Sloan



Enbenet Reel

Danish

12 G D7 G G D7 G

23 D7 G D7 G G D7 G

1. 2. G G

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Nobody has presented any information about **Enbenet Reel** - so I did some research about it:

Enbenet means 'one-legged' in Danish. I suppose that fits with the feeling in the leg after some Danish dances (2 counts on the left foot and only one on the right).

Enbenet is also used in Denmark to describe the gait of the intoxicated.

The third Enbenet is the name of a type of wading bird / heron type.



It seems we are losing some of the Society's early dances. Next month **Vivat Szocs** from Poland will feature - has it also been lost?

Ed.





SIFD Committee

- Acting Chairman:** Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN
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dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com

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020 8397 9649 *brenda.steventon@btinternet.com*

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





WHAT'S ON IN APRIL

There are cancellations to most events - please check

S.I Apr. 5: GREEK DANCES FROM PONTOS 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.



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