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August

2020



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



The charming cover this month is a photo, taken by Andrew Hardwick, of two performers at the 2005 Koprivshitsa Festival in Bulgaria. I used a black and white version in 2006 as a front cover before the advent of colour, but I think this deserves a second outing. Frances Horrocks has set a caption task on the back page.

The Bognor Regis International Dance Ensemble **will resume normal service** at 7pm on the 7th September at the Willowhale Community Centre, PO21 4JF.

☺ Ed.



### **Announcement from your Committee**

We are happy to inform you all that the Charity Commission have authorised the SIFD becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and we now have a new charity number **1189141**.

This means that the SIFD has its own legal identity and is responsible for its own assets and liabilities. As members you will probably not notice any difference, but the trustees are no longer personally liable, although must act in good faith.

If this encourages anyone to join the committee please contact one of the current members, we would be happy to hear from you.

The old SIFD charity will be closed down so the old number 284509 should no longer be used and where appropriate changed to the new number.

**The Committee**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Oct. 3: WORLD DANCES WITH ANNE LEACH** + some by Gill Morral. Mix of partner & non-partner dances. 10.30 - 4.30, lunch break 1-2pm. Day course £10., ½ day £7. Bramcote Mem. Hall, Church St. Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Details please contact Gill Morral – [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com) or 0115 9171831.

S.I **Oct. 16: RAINMAKERS 44th ANNIVERSARY DANCE**, 8pm-10.45pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 3PQ. £10.00. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. Please bring food to share. More info from Mark (01462 454210). **SUBJECT TO CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS BEING LIFTED.**

**Nov. 6-9: THREE NIGHT INT. FOLK DANCING** 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



### Sue Clark

I first met Sue about nineteen fifty, in a shop in east Enfield that I visited for photographic material on my way home from work. She was there occasionally during intervals between stage shows.

To our mutual surprise a few years later we met one Sunday at Cecil Sharp House, hence I discovered she was a professional dancer, and I enjoyed her ability and fun during dance, as many others did and have done since. We all will remember her for that.

Her husband 'Vic' was her cousin, they were well suited and happy. Many memories!

**Roy Clarke**



## **SIFD Insurance –help needed urgently**

For a number of years Richard Thom has carried out valuable work looking after the administration of the SIFD insurance policy. Due to personal commitments Richard now wishes to hand over this role to someone else, and we therefore urgently need a volunteer to take over this important work for the SIFD, starting later this summer.

The work can be summarised as follows:

- when the policy renewal date approaches, ascertaining (in liaison with the membership secretary) how many groups want to be on the plan for the following year.
- advising the broker of any changes, so that the policy includes the correct number of groups and the right equipment etc.
- calculating/summarising the amount by which each group should reimburse to the SIFD.
- advising the participating groups how much they should pay.
- some groups will pay electronically, but if they do not want to .... receiving their cheques and paying them into the SIFD Account.

The policy renewal date is in the autumn.

Richard Thom advises that he expects to be available to advise and to help on any initial queries to “smooth” the handover. If you might be interested in taking on this work, but would like more details, Richard would be very pleased to discuss what is involved. (Tel: 01438 235634). Richard Thom advises that his personal commitments may prevent him this autumn from carrying out his role of finalising the policy renewal and working on the administration of groups’ insurance. This is vital work within the SIFD. The Society therefore needs someone to offer their services NOW. Please contact anyone on the Committee if you can help.



Recently I was going through stuff in the loft, and I came across a pile of newsletters dated 1965, namely “Fandango”, the journal of the long-defunct Harrow Green IFDG. The following article came from one of them, written, I suspect, by the late George Sweetland. Incidentally, in the mid sixties, I similarly introduced a work colleague to Harrow Green; he was for many years an active SIFD member, it was Joe Cott! Best wishes to all,

**Ian Willson (Loidis IFDG)**

### **Memories of admitting to doing Folk Dancing at work!**

Somehow, it inadvertently slips out. One day at the office you will admit that you spend your evening FOLK DANCING. My immediate reaction was a desire to bite my tongue out, as I knew only too well what would happen. “Folk Dancing” he says in the carefully measured tones one uses to a congenital idiot “you do all that hopping round a maypole stuff?” “Oh no” I reply desperately, wishing we hadn’t left the subject of the blonde in the Accounts Department. “We do International dancing”. The puzzled look on my colleague’s face as visions of grass-skirted, Russian booted, castanet-clicking dervishes crossed his mind was worth seeing. “What I mean is” I continue, by now I am almost gibbering, “We do French....” another pause while a mental picture of me doing the Can-Can appears.... “German, Russian, Spanish, Balkan...” Up to now I’ve been batting on a pretty sticky wicket, but now I’ve really lost him. “Balkan” he says “What sort of dancing is that?” “We all join hands and dance in a circle” “Sort of like Knees up Mother Brown...?” He’s hopeful now, wants to make sure I’m completely crackers before he calls for help. “What else happens?” he continues. “Sometimes the men form a line and dance together” I stutter. This time my colleague gave a visible start and moved rapidly round the other side of the desk. “What do you wear for all this, er, capering about?” was the next question. Somehow I didn’t feel that describing the Macedonian costume (little white skirt, long drawers, embroidered socks), was going to do my image any good at all - he’d have had me hauled in front of the Managing Director as a danger to the young lads in the firm. So I said hurriedly, “just the usual-things you know, trousers and red jackets” and tried to change the conversation rapidly.



## **Pictures of Bohemian folk costumes in the July issue**

I wonder if there might be some curious people around, thirsting for the information about the folk costumes pictured on the front and the back pages of the last SIFD News issue. For their benefit – as a Czech speaker, it is my mother tongue, actually – I have put down some elucidation.

The front cover (*left*): Také Podkrkonoší melo bohaté vyšívané kroje (Also Podkrkonoší boasted richly embroidered costumes) pictures folk costumes from the foothills of the Krkonoše mountain range in the north of the country, which Bohemia shares with Poland. On the map, you may find Krkonoše under the German name Riesengebirge (Giant Mountains), as this area historically belonged to the predominantly German speaking Sudetenland (until the end of the Second World War). By the way, Bohemia is the western part of the Czech Republic.

The back cover (*right*): Vúrodné oblast jihoceských rybníku se nosil honosný blatský kroj (In the fertile area of south-Bohemian ponds was worn the showy Blata region costume). The southern Bohemian Blata is an area of wetland, famous for its ponds. Many of them were established as early as Middle Ages to breed carp, a staple food of the Czech Christmas dinner.

**Dal Sudwell**

## News from the Committee, July 2020



The Committee met by Zoom on July 2nd 2020.

### **New CIO**

As the SIFD is now a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Committee officially recorded the transfer of all assets and liabilities from the “old” Society to the “new” one (ie. as governed by the new, recently agreed, Constitution). The Committee formally authorised the request to the Charity Commission to remove the old Society from the Charity Register.

### **AGMs**

The 2020 AGM for the “old” SIFD was required, under the old Constitution, to be held by 30th September 2020. Covid-19 lockdown restrictions prevent this from happening. However the situation has been covered by the Charity Commission, who have advised that a charity “can decide it is necessary to cancel or postpone any meeting”, and that they should document to this effect. So The Committee therefore formally agreed that the final AGM re the old SIFD will be deferred. The first AGM for the SIFD as CIO must be held within 18 months of formation ie. by 19th October 2021. It was suggested that we hold two AGMs (ie. last old SIFD and first CIO SIFD) together, some time in 2021. For members’ information the 2019 Accounts and Reports, which would normally have been presented to members at the autumn 2020 AGM, will be circulated shortly.



## **Insurance**

The Committee noted that Richard Thom wishes to step down from his work as SIFD's Insurance administrator. A request for someone to take this over would be made via the News.

## **Group Membership and the free-to-groups scheme**

The Committee has agreed that as the Covid-19 lockdown has prevented some groups from fully using their 2019/20 free-to-groups entitlements, unused entitlements can be carried forward for use in 2020/21.

## **New SIFD Website**

This should be going live very soon.

## **Members Handbook –Amended version**

Further work has been carried out and this should become available in the near future.



Dear Janet,

My Czech friend has sent me translations for the captions to the two photographs on this month's News.

Front. "In the Podkrkonsi region the folk costumes were beautifully embroidered" (inwrought by embroideries).

Back. "In the fertile valley of south Bohemia's ponds/lakes there is a spectacular (de-lux) Blata folk costume". Blata is the name for that ethnographical region.

It is sad that the newsletter had been getting thinner and thinner and now gets filled with obituaries! But may I congratulate you Janet on producing a lovely little neat and colourful News every month. It's not your fault if people don't send in the material!

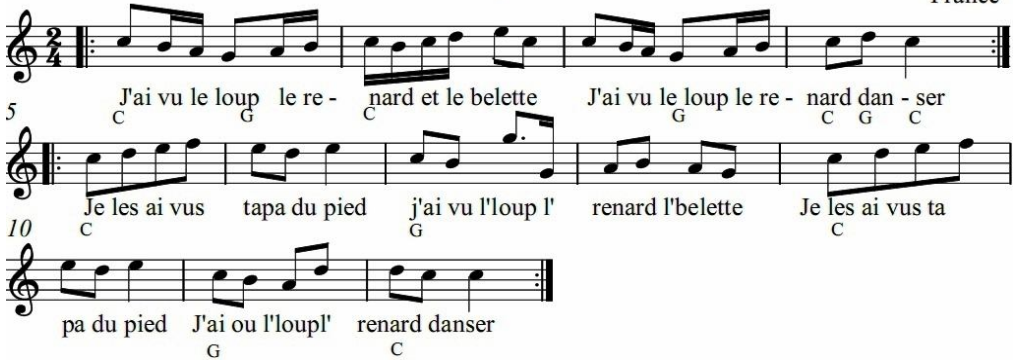
It was through roundabout SIFD connections that I became friends with Janka (my translator). She is a folk singer rather than a dancer, and her children, now nearly grown up, call me their Anglicka Babicka. I danced with the Israeli, Polish and Yugoslav groups all in my time, but now I'm one of those that still manages to stagger round the kitchen table.! I loved Lily's and Simon's poems.

All good wishes, and happy dancing - whenever and wherever

**Margaret Joyner**

## Bourrée à Sept Sauts

France



5 J'ai vu le loup le re - nard et le belette J'ai vu le loup le re - nard dan - ser  
C G C G C G C

10 Je les ai vus tapa du pied j'ai vu l'loup l' renard l'belette Je les ai vus ta  
C G C

pa du pied J'ai ou l'loup! renard danser  
G C

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Dear Janet,

We learned 'Sept Sauts' from Marie-Claire Viala at the SIFD York Summer school in 1996. The dance comes from Gascogne – Bearn and is one of the group of dances called 'Sauts Bearnais' which were originally danced only by men. (There are other dances in this group and a variety of step patterns). Sept Sauts consists of 4 'simples', copar simple right side, copar simple left side, 1 jump, then dance repeats with a jump added on each time 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.

After the evening dance at York we used to go to the bar (which was closed) to chat, sing and dance, often until 3 a.m. (we were young then!). I can remember Marie-Claire playing the flute and dancing 'Sept Sauts' managing to breathe, blow, and jump the final 7 jumps. I think Anne Leach, Caspar Cronk, Jeanette Hull will remember the occasion also. Every time I dance, or play this at Danse Herts I think of these happy times.

**Jill Bransby**



**Der Windmill** (the miller) from Germany will be featured next month; do send in any information you have about it.

**Ed.**



## **SIFD Committee**

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## Who's who?



With all the discussions pro and anti face masks. I thought this might make a subject for suggestions for a caption.

**Frances Horrocks**  
Assisted by son Gregory

## NOTHING ON IN AUGUST



*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.*

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