

SIFD News



July 2021

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

The front cover shows Sybil Chapman and Leslie Haddon in Hungarian costume - see page 8). There is a random old picture of ladies from Kashmir on the back page.

I have discovered an old word - **balter** (*böll'ter*)
v. To dance gracelessly, without particular art or skill, but perhaps with some enjoyment. [MIDDLE ENGLISH]. (male figure in Elizabethan costume baltering below).

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Ed.

Thank You For The Dances. Did I say 25th September?!

My mistake. Soon after submitting the piece to Janet about the big event, I realised that the Cecil Sharp House booking was on a first reserve basis and so was dependent on another client pulling out. The good news is that we have been offered **4th September**. By the way, Balkanplus expects to resume monthly dances at Cecil Sharp House in November.

Planning “Thank You for the Dances” is turning out to be a labour of love. Whether thinking of inspirational teachers or simply recalling shared communal experiences, I am sure we all agree that our lives have been enriched by dance. It would be heartening if, after the pandemic, we witness a strong revival of interest in our chosen pursuit.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of restrictions being lifted, the Barnet group has tentatively set 25th June as the restart date and 23rd July as summer party night. Again, look out for confirmation nearer the time.

Better days are coming.

Brian Dowsett



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug. 7- 8: THE OLD SILK ROAD Dances & stories with Chrisandra and Dalila Heath. Nottingham in Chrisandra's Secret Studio. Details from Chrisandra, chrisandraharris@gmail.com

S.I **Sep. 4: THANK YOU FOR THE DANCES** A Balkanplus day of dance at Cecil Sharp House led by Brian Dowsett. A personal tribute to the many teachers who have enriched our (mainly) Balkan dance repertoire over the last sixty years. 10.30am Party 7pm. More details to follow. Contact: Brian bvdowsett@aol.com

S.I **Sep. 5: AFTERNOON DANCE** 1pm - 4pm. at Pulborough Social Centre, Swan View, Lower Street, Pulborough, West Sussex, RH20 2BF. Cost £5. tel: 01243 265010 or sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk

Sept 18: DANCES FROM AROUND THE WORLD, led by Anne Leach. 2.00–5.30pm at Bramcote Memorial Hall, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. £7.00. Contact Gill Morral – 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com



*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.*





Eddy Tijssen You Tube channel

Frances Horrocks has been in touch with Eddy Tijssen and forwarded the following:

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

Dear friends and (folk) dance and music lovers.

Recently I opened a new You Tube channel.

Just type "Eddy Tijssen" on You Tube and it will appear.

The advantage of having a channel is that you can now make playlists. This way it's more in order.

It contains Bulgarian theatre dance (among other dances of the Ensemble Praznik and Bulgarian dance groups), Bulgarian music, and Bulgarian folk dance, and dances from my Bulgarian dance program. (thanks to the generosity of my friends who granted me permission to use their video material!)

Please join me, enjoy it, subscribe and feel free to use it!!

Eddy Tijssen

∞∞∞∞∞∞∞

Eddy said that compiling the lists reminded him of all the people he met and friends he made on his many visits to England and sends warmest greetings (Covidfree) to them all.

via **Frances Horrocks**



Dance Alphabet

Batuta (Romania)

Chain dance for men only. The time is faster and the steps more vigorous than the Hora or the Sarba. Towards the end of the dance, shouting loudly, the men take flying leaps into the air.

Borten Abtanz (Romania)

A wedding-dance among the Saxon inhabitants of Romania, to mark a bride's newly married state. The 'borten' is a flower-pot shaped hat worn by un-married maidens, made of black-velvet-covered pasteboard, with wide ribbons hanging almost to the hem of the dress. The colours of the ribbons vary for each village.

On her marriage, the bride lays aside her borten which is 'danced off'. At midnight on the wedding-day, married women among the guests join hands, two bridesmaids taking the bride (wearing her borten) between them. In a wide circle, they dance backwards and forwards round the room, sometimes opening out, until (either accidentally or on purpose) the ring is broken, when all rush into the courtyard still holding hands. There follows a mock struggle in which a young man tries to steal the bride's hat, defended by her brothers or relations, but always ending with the loss of the borten, when the bride is led indoors by her bridesmaids and solemnly invested with her new white cap and veil, held with silver or jewelled pins.

La Bourrée (Auvergne, France)

Most characteristic dance of the Auvergne, known also in Limousine. **Bourrées** of various districts differ only in the figures, the step being always the same and in 3/4 time. The rhythm, characterised by numerous cross-beats, is not that of the valse, although in three-time, being harsher and more lively; neither is the step a valse step, although often wrongly confused with it. The beauty of the dance lies in the perfect execution of the 'pas de bourree', which is used throughout by couples, who revolve 'sur place', move around in a circle, or in a chain. Sometimes they advance or retire, but most often the movement is lateral.

Although basically simple, the Bourrée is difficult to perform, figures following each other rapidly, and the tempo remaining quick. Dancers' heels are often raised from the ground; the man's knees, slightly flexed, are a little apart; arms bent upwards with hands at shoulder height. He snaps his fingers on each first beat. His partner holds her skirt at either side.

There are many **Bourrées**, such as the **Bourrée à Quatre**, **Bourrée à Deux**. The **Bourrée de Saint-Fleur** belongs to that region and to the Cantal; this can be danced by any number of couples and has seven figures plus 'entrée' and 'sortie'.

- * **La Montagnarde** is a **Bourrée** from the Mauriac region and the Cantal for groups of two couples. It has five figures.

In the 19th century the **Auvergne Bourrée** was considered by townsfolk to be heavy and uncouth, being danced in wooden sabots or hob-nailed boots, with a stamp marking every third beat. As danced today it is lively and graceful, with a pleasing rhythmic 'to-and-fro' movement of the men's arms. Singing sometimes accompanies the dance.

Bulba (Byelo-Russia)

One of the many simple 'work-dances' of this region. As Bulba means potato, the dance mimes the planting, hoeing, or gathering of the vegetable. This folk dance is performed by one man or a group.

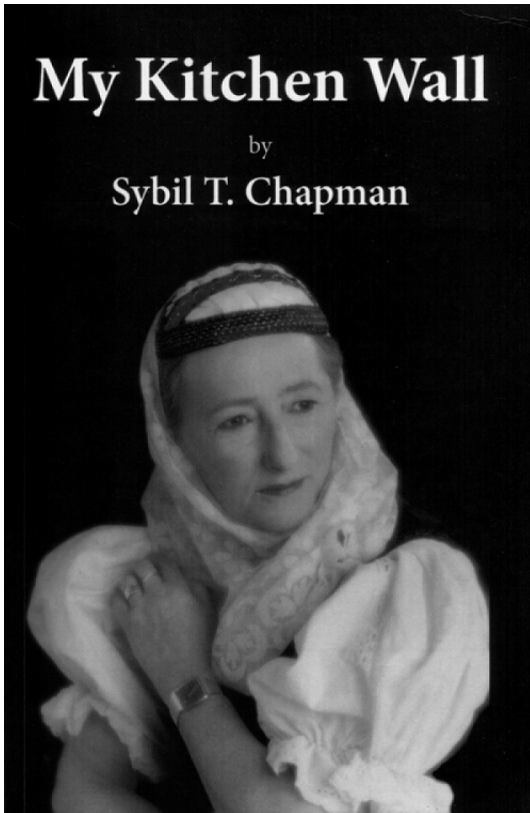
by **W.G. Raffé**

first published in the SIFD News in the 60s



- * Perhaps the same La Montagnarde featured on page 10. **Ed.**

My Kitchen Wall



I have just finished reading the well written autobiography of Sybil Chapman, 'My Kitchen Wall' (the place for artefacts and souvenirs reflecting her varied interests).

Her book gives interesting insights into life during the second World War; and paints a picture of a bygone age.

Her memories of teacher training and early teaching conjure up the experience of both teachers and pupils of that era.

Dance becomes part of her story in the classroom as P.E. teaching included dance. She introduced international dance and was initiated into the required element of the time - Modern Educational Dance. Sybil was evidently quite an athlete; she led school ski trips to Bulgaria, Germany and France and gained an increasing appreciation of Eastern European culture (and wine!). There were trips to Romania - and Romanian costume for her collection; it was also, the country where she encountered an area of 're housed' native Hungarians.

There are tales of folk dance at home and abroad, dance courses mostly in Hungary taught by the national dance experts, and performances by folk dance groups.

Sybil has written of her warm memories of Magda Osskó, and visits to Hungary. A shared love of Hungarian dance brought Leslie Haddon into her sphere of dance - and her book.

(a photo from it adorns the front cover this month).

My Kitchen Wall is published by Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd. ISBN 978-07223-5072-0.

Janet Douglas



One Date Cancelled - A New Date Set

Once again the dance event I had planned at Pulborough Village Hall has been cancelled! (that was July 4th)

Anyway, I am persistent, and have booked the same hall yet again for a shared dance event in September. Although they do say madness is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result!

It has to be a case of **third time lucky**, so it will go ahead and we can meet to dance international folkdances and enjoy the beautiful setting. The Hall has a huge car park, and is situated half a mile from Pulborough railway station.

September 5th - 1pm - 4pm.

at Pulborough Social Centre, West Sussex
(details under Diary Dates)

Janet Douglas



La Montagnarde de St. Chartier

France

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17
25
33

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Is **La Montagnarde de St. Chartier** the same Montagnarde described in the Dance Alphabet ? (page 7). The geography seems a bit suspect, but if it is the same then Simon and Joan Guest taught it back in 2006.



The Dutch dance **Zeeuwse Rei** will be featured in the next issue. Please share any knowledge you have of the dance

Ed.



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NOTHING ON IN JULY

NB Jul.4: SUMMER'S DAY DANCE 1-4pm.at Pulborough **cancelled** (p.9)



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