

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



August
2021

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

The cover picture this month from Moravia “ Hanácké sváteční kroje patří na Moravě k nejkrásnějším”.

(some kind soul may enlighten us next month) ☺

The Balkanplus logo appears this month to coincide with Brian’s article on page 5.

The back cover photo of SIFD at the Royal Albert Hall is from Jill Bransby to accompany her observations on La Montagnarde de St. Chartier and Zeeuwse Rei (page 8).

The dance featured from the Wilf Horrocks’ Collection next month is the **Congo** from France - do we do it in a long line?
dadadadada **Da Da**

Ed.



News from the Committee

AGM information

It had been hoped that by this autumn the coronavirus restrictions and uncertainties would by that time allow the Society to hold the first AGM for the SIFD as a CIO, together with the final AGM for the "old " SIFD (which was postponed last year in line with guidance issued by the Charity Commission). However current circumstances are such that the Committee believe that a traditional face-to-face AGM remains inappropriate for the Society, and that alternatives are not appropriate or practical. The Meeting is therefore being postponed to next year. The Charity Commission guidance on this remains in force, allowing us to postpone meetings if this is the appropriate course.

continued overleaf >>

Individual Membership Subscription Waiver

It has been agreed that if a member finds that coronavirus has impacted their circumstances they can claim a subscription waiver at the renewal date this summer, if this is the appropriate course for them. This is a goodwill offer, with no questions being asked. On receipt of your renewal form please advise the membership secretary if you wish to claim the waiver, so that our records can be noted accordingly.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Sep. 4: THANK YOU FOR THE DANCES** A Balkanplus day of dance led by Brian Dowsett. (See page 5) 10.30am - 4.30pm and Party 7.00 - 10pm at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Road, London. NW1 7AY £20 for the full day £10 for the party only or section of the day. Pay at the door but it would be appreciated if you would register your interest by letting Brian know. *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*



Balkanplus. Is this farewell?

Maybe it is. In a message to our Balkanplus season ticket holders, I explained that an anticipated drop in attendance numbers after the pandemic and the failure to attract a younger following were but two of the reasons that made us come to this sad conclusion. Founded thirty five years ago to provide a regular forum for Balkan dance enthusiasts, Balkanplus has organised monthly dance evenings and some memorable weekend workshops at Cecil Sharp House. Up to the time of the pandemic, it had established itself as the major regular Balkan dance event in London.

It is therefore with a heavy heart that we announce the end of activities – at least for a while. Who knows, there could be people out there with the vision to grab the baton and, perhaps under a new name, continue what we started back in 1986. In the meantime, I am sure our individual dance groups will continue to ride the storm.

We won't be finishing with a whimper though. "Thank You for the Dances" at Cecil Sharp House on 4th September promises to be as big a finish as anyone could hope for. For full details see Dates for Your Diary. In the daytime sessions I will lead the tributes to the many teachers whose dances have enriched our repertoire over the past sixty years. A large proportion of these teachers came by way of an invitation from Balkanplus of course. I will be drawing from 52 dances on a double CD that Ron Wilks is producing for the occasion and that will be available for purchase. The evening party will include cameo spots by past MCs who will choose their own favourite dances and, although I can't guarantee it, there might be space for your request if you can let me know by 31st August. With guest musicians and technical support by John Stewart, this must surely come under the category NOT TO BE MISSED.

Brian Dowsett *bvdowsett@aol.com*

Further extracts from "Dictionary of the Dance" by W. G. Raffe.

Dance Alphabet

Candiote (Greek)

Dance said to date from 1623 (though this is quite uncertain and improbable), known as a tender and slow, gracious dance for girls. A young girl conducts various figures: they resemble the intricate paths of a labyrinth, with the suggestions of the legend as from Homer. Sometimes the girls are clothed solely in white, wearing gilded crowns; while young men appear in light dress of brilliant colours. The dance proper begins with a great circle, danced with full precision; then the circle opens (as does the 'hora' or 'kolo'), into one of more lines, and moves through numerous variations. The Candiote appears at many festivals, both in towns and at rustic fetes. This dance has been compared with the Farandole, but the Candiote seems more complex, both in form and meaning.

Carillo de Dunkerque (France)

An old dance of Northern France, for any number of couples, consisting of Entree, two Figures, and Sortie. The dancers enter "en farandole", and form a circle, men and women facing, hands on hips. The First Figure begins by alternately striking the right and left foot on the ground three times, sur place. After a pause, hands are vigorously clapped instead of striking the foot. The figure continues with turns sur place in an anti-clockwise direction. Then the previous movements are repeated but in clockwise direction. In the Second Figure the couples form a circle turning clockwise with a gallop step. These two figures are repeated as often as desired. The dancers finally retire in line, as they entered, to the same musical motif. For variation, the dancers stand one inside, one outside the circle, forming two rings instead of one in the Second Figure. The women inside turn anticlockwise; the men outside turn clockwise.

Charrada (Spain)

A dance performed in Salamanca and its surrounding province of Leon, by the Charros, as the men of that region are called.

Although a couple dance, most of the dancing is performed by the men. With a table between them, the woman, one arm raised, moves round it with small, shuffling steps; while the man shows off for her with a display of difficult steps as he reaches each corner of the table. Castanets and drums accompany the dance. When performed at a wedding, it is a competition by the men, with a prize for the best dancer. When the 'rosca' (a large cake, or 'bread with eggs') is placed on the table, a derivation from the Charrada called "La Rosca", is danced in 2/8 time. A Charrada in 4/8 time also exists.

Cherkesska (Caucasia.)

A men's sabre dance, being a solo exhibition to display the performer's skill both in dancing and in manipulating the sword. With many leaps and turns, it is danced in spirited style.



Further to the item last month on Sybil Chapman's autobiography '**My Kitchen Wall**' - here is the address of the publisher:

Arthur H. Stockwell Ltd.
Torrs Park, Ilfracombe, Devon. EX34 8BA
www.ahstockwell.co.uk

Ed.



La Montagnarde de St. Chartier

Berrichonne Bourrée in 3/4 time for 2 couples



Music	Bars	Description
A - 1	B - 1	Each dancer, with smooth forward bourrée steps, describes an ellipse, visiting his partner's place and returning home. Face direction of travel at all times. Pass left shoulders.
A - 1	1 - 8	Repeat A - 1 bars 1 - 8
B - 1	1	All dancers, 1 bourrée step on the spot
	2	Girls, 1 bourrée step on the spot. Men cross to partner's place, passing left shoulders.
	3	Girls, cross to partner's place, passing left shoulders. Men, start turning right about, on the spot, to face other girl (270°).
	4	Girls, start turning left about, on the spot, to face other man (270°). Men, complete turn started in previous bar.
	5	Girls, complete turn started in previous bar. Men, start to cross with other girl as in B - 1 bar 1
	6 - 8	Dancers continue around the square as in bars 2 - 4 above.
B - 1	1 - 8	Dancers continue around the square to own place. Note that the girls dance one bar behind the men throughout.

1995 - Simon Guest

Dear Janet,

Thank you for keeping the magazine going in these 'lean' dance news times.

I found Simon's 1995 notes for this dance **La Montagnarde de St. Chartier** (featured in July edition) which he describes as a Berrichonne Bourrée in 3/4 time for 2 couples. (*reproduced on previous page*)

At Danse Herts we dance a different longways version of this Auvergne Bourrée. I'm not sure that our dancing of it could be described as 'graceful' - more 'rustic, heavy and uncouth perhaps' (quoting W.G.Raffe in last month's article)? It can go on a very long time, with couples dancing small bourrée steps towards the band. When you and your partner reach the top of the set you execute a turn and a half together, face down the set and start a crossing figure. This is where the arm movements come into play and stamps at appropriate moments. Having zigg – zagged all the way to the bottom of the set you thankfully take a cross hand hold with your partner and resume 'bourréeing' down the set until your great moment starts again!

I hope that soon we will be able to dance indoors at Ickelford Village Hall and not on Zoom.

Zeeuwse Rei (Zeeland Round Dance) is a Dutch dance for trios, traditionally 1 man and 2 women, in 4-8 groups of 3s linked in a circle. This was one of the five dances performed at the RAH for the SIFD's item 'European Medley for Trios' at the National Festival of Movement and Dance in April, 1985 (see photo of the four circles as viewed from above on the back page). As producer I chose this dance because of the patterns that the dancers created, for example, the movements in and out looked like flowers opening from above. I think I learned the dance from one of the Dutch Groups at a Sidmouth Folk Festival in the early 1980s. (Brief Dance instructions overleaf) :

Jill Bransby

Zeeuwse Rei

Holland

The musical score is written in 2/4 time and consists of five systems of music. The first system (bars 10-18) is marked 'Intro' and 'A'. The second system (bars 19-28) is marked 'B'. The third system (bars 29-35) is marked 'C'. The fourth system (bars 36-44) is marked 'A'. The fifth system (bars 45-52) is marked 'A'. Chords are indicated below the notes, including Bb, Eb, F7, Bb, C7, F, Bb, F7, Bb, Bb7, Eb, Ab, B7, Eb, Bb7, Eb, A7, Eb, Bb, F7, Bb7, Eb, Ab, Bb7, and Eb.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

8 bars, A music. Fig. 1. Circle (24 running steps to right) and loop Turn (last 2 bars, 8 steps)

8 bars, A music Fig. 2. Circle in and out x2, upper part of body bent slightly forward, arms low , as go in gradually raise body and arms raised above heads. Dance backwards out bringing hands down and upper body as the start. Repeat

8 bars B music Fig. 3. Men's star/right handed mill 4 bars

Women's left hand star or hand on shoulder of person in front. 4 bars

8 bars B music Fig. 4. 'Setting' – ('Seitsprezen' – swinging sideways movement, Men swing left leg first, women right) Man faces woman on right first and then turns to face left hand woman. Foot work as before.

Fig. 3 stars (C music) and Fig. 2 In and out (D music) are repeated, finishing with 1 circle to right and left with D music.

I think we used the second circle Fig. 1 to get to the next dance position in the display. 1985 seems a very long time ago!

Jill Bransby



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WHAT'S ON IN AUGUST

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

CANCELLED



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