

Society for International Folk Dancing

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September 2021

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Packaging, posting & electronic distribution by Dalila Heath.

The front cover was taken from a very old postcard from Alsace. We have an interesting and informative response to last month's hint about the Czech costumes. (*below and overleaf*)



Ed.



Hello Janet,

Thanks for the latest colourful news letter. My Czech friend has sent me this translation.

"The folk costumes of the region of Haná belong to the most beautiful ones in Moravia." The caption doesn't really tell us much!!

- * I think you must have the same collection of pictures that I have ... a lovely calendar years ago 1994 that I have saved.

If you would like some little "fillers up" for somewhat scanty news these days here are a few quotations.

"Unless you have seen a country's dancing you can't really know its soul or its temperament." **Michela Denis**

"Dancing is the loftiest, the most moving, the most beautiful of the arts, because it is no more translation or abstraction from life; it is life itself" **Henry Havelock Ellis**

"Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance. Great dancers are not great because of their technique, they are great because of their passion." **Martha Graham**

Best wishes and best dancing! Cheers!

Margaret Joyner

- * Yes it is the same calendar, it was the last thing that Dennis Turner sent in after he'd had a 'clear-out'. **Ed.**



Hi Janet

I have a translation for the August cover picture caption:

"Hanácké sváteční kroje patří na Morave k nejkrásnějším"

My Czech daughter-in-law says it means: "Hanakian festival costumes are the most beautiful in Moravia."

Haná or Hanakia (Czech Hanacko) is an ethnographic region in Central Moravia in the Czech Republic (now Czechia).

The area is centred around the river Haná with Olomouc being the former historic capital of the region.



Following many wars Brno is now the capital of Moravia. It has a large impressive restored fortress which Ian and I have visited.

Our son Andrew, daughter-in-law Jitka and grandchildren Toby (10) and Anna (8) lived in Olomouc for 2 years until recently. They have now returned to the UK and are living in St Albans. Toby and Anna are fluent in both Czech and English and were attending the British International School in Olomouc. Andrew has taken Czech Language courses at Brno University. This has enabled him to converse directly with his Czech relatives. They also have a house in Hanusovice which is a village in the northern mountainous region near to the border with Poland. Jitka grew up in this area and her parents still live there.

I hope the translation is useful.

Jane Green - Harrow U3A SIFD Group



Haná Folk Costumes

The front cover picture in last month's issue was of folk costumes from the Haná region in Moravia. Moravia is the eastern part of the Czech republic and Haná is situated roughly in its middle, with the historic city of Olomouc as its natural centre. The area is agriculturally very fertile and has preserved many traditional rural customs and rich catholic heritage. Olomouc is the seat of the second most important bishopric in the land (after Prague). Thousands of believers, many in folk costumes, every year take part in pilgrimages to the holy places at Hostýn and Svatý Kopecek (The Holy Mound).

For us dancers it may be interesting to mention that there exists a Hanácká Beseda (Beseda from Haná). Since the second half of the 19th century, there were devised besedas as an expression of national pride, fighting the influx of foreign dances from Vienna, Paris, London and America. The first was the Czech Beseda (1862), conceived as a ballroom quadrille, but using tunes of Czech folk songs and adapted folk dance steps. It met with such a success, that soon the format was copied by both the Moravians and the Slovaks, later also by the Silesians and the Hanakians.

The last one was actually performed for the first time in August 1947, just a few months before the Communist coup (February 1948), at least partly as an expression of defiance towards the incoming totalitarianism. Unlike the other besedas, this one is danced on a circle by any number of couples. It has ten parts and for some of them scarves are used. Several parts have their origin in "artisan" dances of the rural craftsmen (The Ploughman, the Farmer, The Butcher, The Gardener). During the communist era, the besedas were slowly falling into oblivion, but thanks to Prague Dvorana most were in recent years resurrected and issued on DVD with accompanying dance description (www.dvorana.cz)

By the way, the Czech narration in the last month's issue of SIFD News "Hanácké sváteční kroje patří na Morave k nejkrásnějším" translates as: Festive costumes at Haná rank among the most beautiful in Moravia. And, Haná is pronounced Han-nah, with stress on the first syllable, which is short, and the second á long (as in the English word hard).

Dal Sudwell

Phil & Brenda Steventon - Zoom Online Dancing

We have run our Zoom dancing for 15 months now.

Thank you to every one of you that has joined us. But all good things must come to an end. Here's the list of the dances we've done in 2021, some with slight adjustments!



Albania

Chaj Zibede

Armenia

Karoun Karoun

Austria

Radetskymars

Siebenschritt

Belgium

De Kolom

La Piernelle

Bolivia

Chilili

Bosnia

Ne Klepeci

Brazil

Samba Mixer

Bulgaria

Karamfil

Tropanka

Vrapceto

China

Happy New Year

Czech Republic

Bystricky

Denmark

Mellem Kagel og ae

Vaeg

France

Bannelou Lambaol

Branle de Cosnay

Chapelloise

Germany

Kleiner Schottische

Greece

Gaitanaki Rodou

Never on a Sunday

Pera Stous Kambos

Tsamikos

Hungary

E Shukar Romnji

Farkas Jatek

Israel

Musica Nisheret

Niguno Shel Yossi

Rei'ah Tapou'ah

Odem Shani

Shiboleth Basadeh

Latvia

Plaukstindeja Polka

Lithuania

Gyvatarus

Polka Keturine

Macedonia

Idam ni Idam

Jano Janke

Koce Berberot

Mexico

Jota Tapatia

Netherlands

Hakke Toone

Paula's Dans

Norway

Allemans Marsj

Portugal

Erva Cidera

Fado Blanchita

Romania

Axiomul

Hora din Casa

Hora Mare

Munteneasca

Russia

Kohanochka

Let'el Golub

Vesyolaya Kadril

Zabaluda Dunina

Galowka

Serbia

Davorike Dajke

Neda Grivna

Vlajnica

South Africa

Aunt Hessie's White

Horse

Switzerland
Stella di Maggio

Taiwan
Spring Wind

UK (England)
Halfe Hannikin
Sybil's Roundabout
Turning By Threes

UK (Scotland)
The Coanwood
Stuarts

UK (Wales)
Ffarwel Marion
Migldi Magldi
Waterfall Waltz

USA
Grand Square
Salty Dog Rag

But now it's time to join together and dance in a hall again!

Wednesdays 10:30-12:00 and 20:00-21:30

Tolworth WORLD of DANCE classes will be back from 8th September, meeting at St George's Hall, Hamilton Avenue, Tolworth KT6 7PT

Your first class with us is free and then it's £5/week pay as you go. We do hope you will be able to join us, especially in our new morning class. The 9:47 train from Waterloo to Tolworth is all you need to know! Hope to be dancing with you all somewhere soon - take care everyone,

Phil & Brenda Steventon

Email: philip.steventon@btinternet.com tel: 020 8397 9649



Bognor Regis

Everybody knows how difficult the last eighteen months have been, but, *keeping everything crossed*, the **Southdowns Folk Festival** will be going ahead this month in Bognor Regis. There are many folk events around the town including dance displays; mostly Morris and Appalachian and also some from BRIDE, my group.

Having had such trying conditions we may not be as slick (!!) as usual. On Saturday the 18th and Sunday the 19th from 10am, we are dancing 'Near Eastern' dances, under which umbrella you may find Armenian, Assyrian, Greek, Israeli, Kurdish, Laz and Turkish. We are doing a couple of English dance sessions as well.

If you happen to be there and feel an irresistible urge to join in - as long as you **know** the dance - give me a nod and it should be okay.

Janet Douglas

Keep on dancing in Matlock

Matlock is on the edge of the Peak District, as well as being within the World Heritage listed Derwent Valley, the birthplace of industrialisation. And, more important, it is home to an excellent dance group.

Matlock IFDG is part of U3A and also SIFD affiliated. As with all dance groups, we have had prolonged periods of no dancing in the past year. But we have been quick to improvise whenever permitted. Last Summer we regularly met outdoors in a local park. This year, as soon as conditions allowed, we started meeting in members' gardens. Restricted to just six, we had two sessions running concurrently at different houses on our usual Friday morning. When we were allowed to move indoors, our usual venue was not suitable, but after much searching Janet found a spacious church hall in the town centre, ideal for distancing and with good ventilation. We had to limit numbers initially, but have been able to accommodate more of the group as restrictions have eased. Attendances have been good with almost all of the group having now returned.

The group was set up by Janet King, who, 15 years later, still runs it. We are very fortunate that Janet, with her extensive knowledge of dancing, is both our dance teacher and organiser, and that several members also contribute by teaching a dance or two each week. We dance mainly Balkan, with particular emphasis on Bulgaria, Romania and Armenia, but also from elsewhere - a Tibetan dance is one of our favourites. In normal times, we run two day courses each year with well known SIFD teachers, also a splendid New Year party, in collaboration with other nearby groups. Several of the group are regular visitors to Rivieradance in Torquay, and other dance courses, and we have accumulated a huge repertoire of dances over the years. With no courses in the past year, no new dances, but that has given us the opportunity to resurrect various dances from the past. We are now having a very short Summer break, and are looking forward to resuming in September - hopefully without further interruptions.

Martin Phillips

Thank You for the Dances

I hope as many as possible will feel happy to meet up at Cecil Sharp House on 4th September. The venue is, in their words, “Covid Secure” with sensible precautionary measures in place. We will respect peoples’ wishes whether or not to join hands or to wear a mask. At the time of writing, I am still in discussion with the cafe manager as to whether she can provide beverages and light snacks at least.

It has been delightful to hear from old friends who are planning to come and from past MCs at Balkanplus who will lead their chosen dances at the evening party. Ron Wilks has produced – with his customary skill - a double CD of the 52 dances I will be selecting from for the morning and afternoon sessions. The double CD is priced at £15. Further details of the event can be found on the What’s On page.

Everything is in place for what should be a day to remember.

Brian Dowsett



Day of Dance in Sheffield

- our own homegrown event to go over those dances we did on zoom over the last 18 months (and those we didn’t) on Saturday **23rd October** between 10.30 and 17.00 at Ecclesall Parish Hall, Ringinglow Road S11 7PQ.

The day will be divided into three or four sessions. There will be no formal teacher, but leaders will run over the steps. The cost should be no more than £10. Contact Greg on 07810181273 or gregboyd99@aol.com to book your place or for further information.

Greg Boyd



Congo

First Time x 3

France

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. It consists of six staves. The first two staves show the melody and guitar accompaniment for the first time through the piece, with chords G, D, G, D, G, C. The third staff is an 'Intro' section with chords C, D, G. The fourth staff is the 'Second Tune x 3' section, with chords D, A7, D, A7, D. The fifth and sixth staves show a 'Drone' section with chords Am, D, G, D, G, Am, D, G, D, G, G, D. The score includes repeat signs and first/second endings.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Congo seems to be a two-couple set dance; one that is definitely done in a line next month - the **Farandole**.

Ed.



XXL TOUR to GEORGIA, ARMENIA and (optional) IRAN

Following the successful XXL Tour to three countries in 2018, Tineke and Maurits are planning a wonderful new XXL tour in June 2022.

Don't miss it! Registration is open. Payment due in 2022.

Info on our website: www.tinekevangeel.nl



SIFD Committee

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C.I.O. number **1189141**

WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

- S.I **Saturday 4th THANK YOU FOR THE DANCES** A Balkanplus day of dance led by Brian Dowsett. 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 a section of the day. Pay at the door. 01992 582717 or bvdowsett@aol.com
- S.I **Sunday 5th 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

Saturday 18th 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

Sat.18th/Sun.19th SOUTHDOWNS FOLK FESTIVAL see page 7



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

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.*