

Society for International Folk Dancing

October 2022



SIFD News



www.sifd.org

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

I regret to have to inform you that Eve Brennan, who, I believe was one of the late Sue Clark's group, passed away on August 11.

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Don't forget about Dance Around The World later this month, (details are on page 6.)

The front cover shows dance and music from central Albania, the girls in dimije dance and the shepherds' flutes from Berat. The back page shows Dumrea dance; all pictures were from Penny Munden.

Ed.



Russian costumes (September cover)

What a lovely surprise, when I opened this month's newsletter and saw the photo on the front! The girls look lovely and so happy in their Russian costumes, and I am so pleased that the costumes are getting a new life with your group - it will be their third, as they came to us from a group in Holland by way of Grace and John Pittman.

Maggie Kaye



Rainmakers 46th Anniversary Dance

Our 46th Anniversary Dance had to be re scheduled because the Church held a Memorial Service for the Queen in the hall where we dance, on the original date. Details are all the same as the last entry in the News – only the date has changed.

We have managed to re-schedule the cancelled 46th Anniversary Dance as follows:

Friday 4th November, 7.30-10.30pm at
Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4YF
£10.00. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Nov.4: RAINMAKERS 46th ANNIVERSARY DANCE**, 7.30pm-10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 4YF. £10.00. This is our rearranged Anniversary Dance from September. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. More info from Mark (01462 454210)
- S.I **Nov.19: HENRY & BETTY LEE MEMORIAL DANCE** 7.30pm-10.30pm at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3TG. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. Rainmakers would particularly like to invite people who knew Henry and Betty to attend this special dance. Naturally all other dancers would be very welcome. The dance is free. If you are interested in coming, please contact Mark on 01462 454210 or markbalaam2@sky.com
- S.I **Dec.10: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Multiple dance leaders plus live music with Dunav. Admission £10.



*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 November issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by 18th October.



Announcements by the Committee

Live music subsidy

To encourage the provision of live music for international folk dancing SIFD is introducing a live music subsidy, for which Affiliated and Associated Groups may apply.

This is in the sum of up to £100 per event held (ie standard workshop or dance etc). However if a Group has good reason to find that a larger amount is appropriate they should make application to this effect.

A Group may make more than one application if multiple events / sessions are being held.

Applications must be made, and approval obtained, in advance.

Applications should be supported by appropriate details for our records, and confirmation that the subsidy will be used for the designated purpose.

Support for Groups

To support Groups as they recover from the disruption to dance caused by Covid and its restrictions, assistance is offered as follows:

1. Affiliated Group Public Liability Insurance cover

The reduced £20 contribution will continue for 2022-23.

2. One-off support for Group events

A specific one-off recovery support payment is being offered to groups holding events. This is being made on the basis that attendances are not yet expected to be fully recovered from Covid restrictions and worries, to help meet hall hire and other costs, and to thereby help groups to encourage dancers back through a reduced admission price.

The amount offered is £200, but if a group has good reason to find that a larger amount is appropriate they should make application to this effect.



Dance Around The World 2022 No. 2

Having missed our favourite dance event for two years running, we're now getting TWO events in one year! Anne very bravely (in my humble opinion) decided to run October 2021's event in March and, not only were people not hesitant to come out, but couldn't wait to get their feet into action. So now we've got the actual 2022 DATW coming up, and it should be better than ever. Anne is still working on the final programme, but I can tell you that the Saturday night dance will again be Balkan night. We did this in March with a new (to us) band Igra, and it was a huge success, with a great turnout. If you didn't come then, try to make it this time. There will, of course, be the usual Latin American night in Kennedy on Saturday, and the (by now) traditional Anglo/International dance to finish off the weekend on Sunday night. Regular attendees will be pleased to know that the Odissi (Indian) group and the Sri Lankan group, new in March, will be returning, as well as old favourites like Tanec, from Bulgaria. Looking forward to seeing our old friends, and (hopefully) some new faces.

Details:

Dance Around the World: two days of performances and workshops -
29th/30th October 10.00am to 11.00pm

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY.

£17 each day, incl. evening £10 eve. only £30 weekend

(£2 red. for concessions). Further info from website

<http://www.datw.org.uk>, email dancetent@outlook.com,

or phone 07749007040 or 07738293157

Maggie O'Regan



You can book your tickets through the website or, of course, just come along on the day. We're not going to make a habit of two festivals a year, so get those dates in your diary and join us for as much of the weekend as possible. It'll be a whole year until the next one!

Anne Leach

Notice for the lovely Eastbourne People

If any members from the Eastbourne area would like to turn up and help me with another **workshop for the blind** again - I would be very grateful. I will be at the Cumberland Hotel opposite Eastbourne Bandstand for a ninety minute dance session starting at 10 o'clock on **Saturday October 15th**. Refreshments will be provided.

We will be doing the simplest of Russian dances this year and a couple of Romanian if time allows.

Janet Douglas



Scenic Holland & Oriental Turkey

Tours in September 2023



with Tineke and Maurits van Geel and Ahmet Demirbagh

Scenic Holland - a trip to our home country - will surprise you with hidden gems, diversity of landscape and picturesque villages.

Oriental Turkey is a great tour to see some amazing places and to dance with local teachers.

The two tours can be booked separately or consecutive (direct flight to Kayseri from Rotterdam).

Prices will be announced later.

Detailed tour program and (pre)registration: www.tinekevangeel.nl

Here are more extracts from ‘**The Dictionary of the Dance**’

by W.G.Raffe

‘**Ndrezzata** (Italy)

A sword and stick dance belonging to Ischia. Although all the dancers (numbering sixteen to twenty) are men, half of them are called “women”, and the leader is the “Corporal”. In two concentric circles, revolving in opposite directions, the dancers move round with a running step, each holding in the left hand a wooden sword, in the right a short heavy stick. With a leap, dancers change from one circle to the other, hitting swords and sticks together with rhythmic precision, turning and striking again. Flute and drum, and humming from the performers, accompany the dance. Wearing white knee-breeches and stockings, rope-soled sandals, doublet and sash, the “women” have a blue doublet with red sash; while the men wear scarlet doublet and blue sash. Once performed on Easter Monday or “John’s Day”, the ‘Ndrezzata now has no fixed date. It retains a ritual making of a ‘lock’ of swords upon which the Corporal is hoisted, from which position he harangues spectators at the start of the dance. Afterwards he encourages the dancers from outside the circles.



Nestinari Fire Dance (At Vulgari, South-eastern Bulgaria, near the frontiers of Turkey)

These people called themselves Iconobori: meaning, not image-bearing but image-revering people. Ikonophoroi is image-bearing. Villages within a twelve-mile circle of Vulgari, on a date they say is the Feast of Constantine and Helena, build great fires and two girl dancers move through them, carrying ikons dedicated to these two persons. This cult dates certainly from the days of Leo Isaurian; holding its faith against the ikonoklastes (imagebreakers), who sought to impose ceremonial changes. The name Nestinari suggests both the early Nestorians (who went into China) and the far older Nusareni (who came from India into Syria, and founded the Nazareni). Fire-walking occurs to this day in India. A service begins in a small chapel; the melody follows ratchenitza rhythms. Then there follows a blessing of dancers and water at the wellhead; this is for asperging; and the dance through the street now is a horo snake form. The fire is lighted at six, at dusk. The pile of wood is five feet high, twenty feet along each side. Another horo follows, round the rising flames; and two men ikon-carriers appear with the papa (priest). The ikon-bearers walk round to the huge pile of glowing cinders; ratchenitza melodies start again. The two women are again blessed, now dancing, now still. They go into a trance, then dance three times across and three times round the fire, leaving no blister on their feet; not a touch of fire on their black dresses. It is recorded that on one occasion some Roman priests brought a boy to show how they could also command fire. The boy was horribly burned. The women's feet were examined within a minute of leaving the fire. The Nestinari ritual dance had left them unharmed. The rest of the villagers formed six circles; and now danced round the glowing fire, three times counter-clockwise and one clockwise circuit, then returned to their favourite ratchenitza. It seems tolerably certain that garbled versions of this Nestinari Fire Dance (or other similar) provided the propagandists with some material for fiction about Witch Dances in Western Europe.



← *I took this picture of a fire-dancer in Bulgaria - she wore white, carried a picture of Madonna and child, and moved **fast**. Those coals were hot! **Ed.***

Neda Grivna

Serbia

Musical score for Neda Grivna, Serbia. The score is in 2/4 time and consists of two staves. The first staff is in G major (one sharp) and the second staff is in D major (two sharps). The first staff has a key signature change to A major (no sharps or flats) at the beginning. The score includes various chords and melodic lines.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Those who remember Roly Minton might recall his insistence that **Neda Grivna** (or Neda Grivne, as I remember it) meant 'Grey Skies'. Where he got that idea from is anyone's guess. Internet research suggests it's only part of the title, which should be 'Neda grivne izgubila' - Neda lost her bracelets, and it is from the Kosovo region.

Dunav Balkan Group recorded it twice for the SIFD: in 1966 for HMV 7EG 8956: Balkan and Israeli Folk Dances No.2, and more recently on SIFD-EP 12: Twelve Circle Dances.

Caroline Thomas

Leader, Dunav Balkan Group (Associate Member SIFD)



The children in my group are learning **Neda Grivna** as it is a simple dance and *speeds up* - which they always enjoy.

The offering for next month will be **Oberek** from Poland - is it still danced? Does anyone remember it? All contributions welcome.

Ed.





SIFD Committee

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



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Sat. 1st-Sun. 2nd TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL - features Kitka (Bulgarian) & Morena (Slovak) www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk.

Saturday 1st NUTBROOK I.F.D.G.- ROMANIA & FRIENDS, led by Maggie Kaye. 11.00–3.30pm at Bramcote Memorial Hall Comm. Nottingham NG9 3HD. £8. gill.morral@ntlworld.com 0115 9171381

S.I **Saturday 8th BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY 6.00- 9.00pm. There will be multiple dance leaders plus live music with Dunav. Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our website www.balkanplus.org.uk

S.I **Sunday 23rd SIFD AGM** St. George's Church, Hamilton Ave. Tolworth, Surrey KT6 7PT at 2.30pm (dance after 'til 6)

S.I **Sat. 29th - Sun. 30th DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, London NW1 7AY. www.datw.org.uk, see page 6.