

# ***SIFD News***



***July 2023***

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

Penny Munden sent the front cover picture of Tahitian dancing which was in the Paris store 'Au Printemps', the women were dancing as they modelled Tahitian sarongs. Emma, Tina and Bobbi from Kitka are pictured on the backpage.

I am happy to say that I have received several coloured photos for future cover use; you just need to send more words!

**Ed.**



## **European Folk Day - 23/09/2023**

This has been brought to our attention and some events may be of interest to our members - see the website for information.

A new project – the first-ever European Folk Day – scheduled for 23rd September this year and aiming at celebrating Europe's folk music and traditional performing arts, including music, dance, and storytelling, through a series of events, performances, workshops, and concerts taking place simultaneously, online and offline, on that specific day across Europe.

This special new celebratory day is intended to help raise the profile of the traditional arts of music, dance and storytelling at local, national and pan-European level. The 'About' page on the European Folk Day website explains why and how this new initiative has begun.

Participation can take whatever form that participants choose. The website [www.europeanfolkday.eu](http://www.europeanfolkday.eu) has lots of useful information, ideas and resources – including translations of the European Folk Day press release into many European languages on the 'Resources' page.

Participating is easy (and free). Everyone can register his/her own event at: <https://www.europeanfolkday.eu/participate>

**Eric van Monckhoven** +39 3312068969 Participation Manager



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Aug. 7-11: MACHOL EUROPA** Israeli Dance Institute, University of Surrey. [INFO@IDI.ORG.UK](mailto:INFO@IDI.ORG.UK) or Box 1948, 116, Ballards Lane, London N3 2DN

**Aug. 18-21: SOUTHDOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL** at Plumpton Agricultural College, East Sussex. BN7 3AE. European Folk dance, Circle dance and English Folk Dance. Single rooms with shared facilities and good food. Contact [suekewley@outlook.com](mailto:suekewley@outlook.com)

S.I **Oct. 7: 40th ANNIVERSARY - LOIDIS IFDG** is celebrating with a workshop lead by Cathy Meunier at Barwick in Elmet Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Barwick in Elmet, Leeds LS15 4EL. Time 10:45am until 4:30pm. Please bring food to share, drinks will be provided. £10 for the day. Everyone welcome. Contact Lorna Ramsden 0113 2937645 or email [lornaramsden@btinternet.com](mailto:lornaramsden@btinternet.com)

**Oct. 28-29: DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Rd, Camden, NW1 7AY. Non-stop performances, workshops & evening dances.



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



## more excerpts from 'The Dictionary of the Dance'

by W.G.Raffe

### **Qatni (cotton) Dance** Arabia

Performed in groups, to a quick tune, the groups visiting each other as in the Lancers. The local poet stands and sings a verse, such as "I left my loved one in the Wadi al'Ain", which is repeated or given refrain by the audience.

### **Quetzales** (Mexico)

Performers of the *Quetzal Dance* in villages of Vera Cruz, Puebla and Hidalgo. Of pre-Conquest origin, it probably had connections with the cult of Quetzalcoatl, Toltec god of learning, and with the Mexican Quetzal bird, which has brilliant plumage of red, green, yellow and blue. This bird was symbolically associated with the "Lord of Dawn", a variant of Quetzalcoatl, and one of the gods governing the thirteen periods of each day in the complicated Aztec calendar. Its feathers were used by the Aztecs to make cloaks and head-dresses. The present-day *Quetzal Dance* is notable for the spectacular head-dress (the "Splendor") worn by the dancers. While this may once have been made entirely of feathers only the outer rim is now feathered. The rest of the "Splendor" consisting of a circular frame, five feet across, of thin reeds, through which are threaded bands of coloured ribbon or paper, the whole supported on a conical cap fitting the dancer's head. The rest of the costume consists of fringed trousers and cape; white or coloured shirt, embroidered or trimmed with ribbons; long coloured stockings and sandals. Accompanied by drum and flute, and marking the rhythm with their rattles, the dancers (about ten or twelve men in a group) form two facing lines, and move with dignified steps through several figures. Each figure beginning with a "reverence" and having a different tune. Using simple steps, the dancers change places and form patterns, such as a cross or a chain in some villages, the last figure is a turning wheel made by four dancers; and another figure the "serpent chain" to a tune called "Little Snake" again points to Quetzalcoatl, whose name means "Feathered Serpent".

# Debka Kurdit

Kurdish Debka

Israel

4

A

Em Am Em

B

Am B Em Am Em B Em

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Perhaps the music for the **Reel of the 51<sup>st</sup> Highlanders**, next month, will trigger some interest. **Ed.**



## Re Albert Hall Show

My sincere apologies for missing out the Derbyshire Dancers group who participated at the Albert Hall Show in September 2000 and my congratulations on the premature birth of the Sheffield group. My thanks to the eagle-eyed Janet King and Gill Sellar for pointing out the error.

I hope those concerned still have happy memories of the event. As the result of moving house I have come across items I had forgotten about. I found my first ever membership card for the S.I.F.D. marked J.M. ie. Junior Member. Does anyone else have one? I was at college when I joined and have never broken a year's subscription since.

**Frances Horrocks**





## **SIFD Committee**

- Acting Chairman:** Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN *Richard@Mellish.uk* 0208 863 7807
- Treasurer:** Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF. *judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*
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## WHAT'S ON IN JULY

**Saturday 1st CATHY COMES TO CALVER** at Calver Village Hall, Calver, Derbyshire, S32 3XR 1030 - 1630. Details from Janet 0162957065 or Gill 01246 410020. Bring your own lunch but drinks will be supplied.

S.I **Saturday 15th DOINA - VICTORIA EMBANKMENT** Gardens - performing 3-5pm.

