

Society for International Folk Dancing

SIFD NEWS



September 2023

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

Woodvale International Folk Dance Group provided the cover picture; **Dot Fuller** writes:
"Our Norwegian set of costumes (including embroidery) was made by members of our group and the design is based on the traditional Hardanger Fiord region of Norway."

There is a picture of Swiss costumes on the back page to complement the Swiss music on page 10.

Ed.



Dear Janet,

Yes, I have my original membership card.

It is membership No. 117 dated year ending 1958, signed Kenneth Ward, Membership Secretary. It suddenly appeared when I was searching for something else, so I kept it locked away - why?

Sorry the July News was so small. Also sorry I do not have news to send in to fill it. I just keep going - very slowly now, but my brain works overtime and I still perk up when in company. I am beginning to know what it's like when my brain says "do this" and I cannot because my body says "No".

Glad Lily is still alive and kicking - there are not many "early" members left now.

Good wishes to you and all the committee and may SIFD continue with increasing membership. I put my longevity down to my ten years dancing.

Best wishes,

Ruth Coton



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Oct.7: 40th ANNIVERSARY - LOIDIS IFDG** is celebrating with a Cathy Meunier workshop at Barwick in Elmet Village Hall, Chapel Lane, Barwick in Elmet, Leeds LS15 4EL. 10:45am - 4:30pm. Please bring food to share, drinks will be provided. £10 for the day. Everyone welcome. Contact Lorna Ramsden 0113 2937645 lornaramsden@btinternet.com
- Oct.14: YGRA AT BALKANPLUS** see page 6
- S.I **Nov.3: RAINMAKERS 47th ANNIVERSARY DANCE**, 7.30pm-10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 4YF. £10.00. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst. More info from Mark (01462 454210) or email markbalaam2@sky.com.
- Nov.11: YGRA AT BALKANPLUS** see page 6
- Nov.18: NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP** 11.am–3.30pm at Bramcote Memorial Hall Community Room, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Enjoy and learn dances from many countries – led by Anne Leach. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Cost for the day is £10.00. For further information please contact Gill Morral: 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com
- S.I **Dec.9: BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.pm - 9.pm. Admission £10 (cash only please). There will be multiple dance leaders, other details to be confirmed. Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our website www.balkanplus.org.uk

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 October issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor IN WRITING by 18th September.



Rivieradance is Back - February 2024

After much deliberation we decided that we could do another Rivieradance next year. And then I found that two top choice dance teachers were available ... so that decided it! They are:

Lee Otterholt who is able to teach dances from a variety of regions ... "Balkan and Beyond".

Gergana Panova who specialises in Bulgarian folk dance, but also teaches International folk dance. ... "Bulgaria and Beyond".

They are both teachers whom we have not had at Rivieradance .. and most of you will not have met them in person.

You can find more information about them on the internet.

You will see that they are both highly regarded knowledgeable teachers, and they are also delightful people who make dancing a great pleasure.

Please save the dates. They are: Thursday 1st - Tuesday 6th February 2024.

There will be more information coming soon and I will also update the website: www.balkanfolkdance.org

I look forward to dancing with you again.

Cathy Meunier

Ygra at Balkanplus:

Saturday 14 Oct 2023 7:00pm-10:00pm

Saturday 11th Nov 2023 7:00pm-10:00pm

Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, London

£10 pay on the door or in advance via Ygra facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ygraband/

Learn to folk dance Balkan-style with Ygra – Balkan Ceilidh.

— no need for a partner — no experience needed

7-7.45pm: Practice the essential steps with Charlotte & Gabor

8-10pm: Put your freshly gained skills to practice with live

music from across the Balkans played by Ygra at Balkanplus.

All welcome.

Charlotte Clare



Tenterden Folk Festival

The 30th Tenterden Folk Festival will run from Thursday 5th to Sunday 8th October. On Saturday and Sunday we are joined by hundreds of colourful and lively Morris dancers and folk dance display teams from across the country. As well as Morris dancers you will be able to see **Bulgarian, Slovakian and other European dance styles** performed in the streets of Tenterden. Do not miss the sight of the procession of dancers at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday. Also, you can take in the craft fair and stalls, free music stage and dance stage on the Recreation Ground.

The list of Morris sides and dance teams can be found at

www.tenterdenfolkfestival.com/Guests/

Joyce Sharp 1930- 2023

I am sad to say that Joyce passed away on the 10th August while in hospital with various age related health problems. She ran a group in Croxley Green for many years and was a great friend and dancing mentor to me. I will miss her dearly. A longer piece about her is planned for next month. It would be lovely to hear other people's memories too.

Meryl Abraham



Konavle costume

The photo of the lady in Konavle costume was given to my stepmother by a friend and taken in Dubrovnik in perhaps the late 50s or early 60s. The lady was presumably in town for shopping with her bag and I believe it could be a woollen woven shoulder bag that I have. The Konavle valley is south of Dubrovnik and nowadays you would only see folk in costume for special events. In Cilipi village during the summer tourist season they dance in the town square after church on Sundays.



Penny Munden





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

by W.G.Raffe

Rachenitza (Bulgaria)

Popular dance, usually in 7/16 beat, following a strict rhythm, generally with a piper and one or two drummers. This general dance rhythm (with varying melodies, according to rite and season), may be heard in popular rejoicings - a wedding or a feast - and also at a funeral. In the open, extension of the dance line reveals one or other of the basic hora patterns - the circle, spiral, and wavy line; in this manner the group dance precedes the Vulgari ritual of the Netsinari sect. The Ratchenitza, found all over Bulgaria, usually begins as a pair dance, but often becomes general. There is much improvisation on basic steps, with displays of technique by the men, the dance sometimes becoming a contest between two or three dancers. Rhythm is marked by hand movements; in the Dobrudje region arms move in heavy emphasis, thumb and first finger of each hand held together at the tips. At weddings, the Ratchenitza is danced by bridesmaids and groomsman after leaving the church, and again at various stages during the celebrations.

Rigaudon (France)

An old dance to lively music in 2/4 time, belonging particularly to Provence. A gay dance of the people, it found favour in chateau and palace ballrooms in the seventeenth century, being popular at the courts of Louis XIII, XIV and XV, and lasting until the Revolution in 1789.

As a Court dance it lost some vitality, but took on added dignity. In England, known as the Rigadoon, it arrived in the last quarter of the 17th century, and became fairly popular. Some authorities state that the dance was called after Rigaud, who "invented" it; others that the name derived from rig, an English word meaning lively, wanton; but neither of these theories seems acceptable.

In Provence, performance of the dance was forbidden in 1664 by the Provençal Parliament, but in the adjacent Dauphine region, the Rigaudon still exists as a folk dance, most country fetes ending with it. The dance contains the jumping step, or pas de rigaudon, peculiar to it in its earlier existence. For any number of couples, partners facing each other, it has only one figure, and is danced lightly and gracefully. The pas de rigaudon (a step with small jumps on the toes) is performed sur place by the man, the woman advancing towards him, holding her skirt on either side, with polka steps. The man salutes his partner; she makes a reverence. While the man repeats pas de rigaudon, the woman retreats with polka steps, then both turn anti-clockwise, each dancing their own step. The sequence is repeated, but instead of saluting his partner, the man takes her right hand and turns her anti-clockwise.

In the 18th century the Rigaudon was given prominence by the famous dancer Camargo (1710-1770) who frequently performed it on the stage.



Allemande

Swiss

The musical score is written in G minor (two flats) and 2/4 time. It consists of two parts: the main Allemande and 'Allemande Version 2'. The main piece starts at measure 9 and ends at measure 51. 'Allemande Version 2' starts at measure 38 and ends at measure 58. The score includes various musical notations such as accidentals, slurs, and dynamic markings. Chord symbols are provided below the staff: Bb, F7, Eb, B, C7, F, C, Bb, F7, Bb, F, Bb fine, C7, C, Bb, F, B, Eb, F, Bb, Eb. The piece concludes with a repeat sign and the instruction 'Repeat A but faster'.

Wilf Horrocks' Collection



Bal de Nans de Berga (Dwarf's Dance) from Catalonia will feature next month. Does anyone know of it? **Ed.**



SIFD Committee

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WHAT'S ON IN SEPTEMBER

S.I. **Saturday 9th BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.pm - 9.pm. Admission £10 (cash only please) Multiple dance leaders plus live music with Dunav. Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or www.balkanplus.org.uk

