

SIFD News



June

2024

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The packaging and posting is done by Dalila Heath.

The cover picture this month shows a couple in traditional folk costumes from Hornácko in the Czech Republic. Dal Sudwell has sent an article about Hornácko (page 5).

Spanish Dancing is alive and well - Elsa Perez (page 6).

Roberto Haddon has sent information about Boerenploff (which translates to Farmer's Plop, page 8).

Ed.



New times for Barnet International Folk Dance Club

From Friday 14th June, BIFDC will run from 7 - 9:30 pm every 2nd and 4th Friday of the month.

Same format - learning new dances, embedding older dances from 7-8pm, break for tea / coffee then requests from 8:30 to 9:30.

Entry £4 unwaged, £5 waged.

The summer party will be on Friday 26th July at the new times.

Venue: Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BW

Ring door bell for entry.

Charlotte Clare



Nutbrook Dance Workshop

5 October: 11.00am – 4.00pm – Nutbrook dance workshop at Bramcote Memorial Hall, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Enjoy and learn dances from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Greece – led by Chrisandra Harris. Everyone welcome, no partners needed.

Cost for the day is £10.00.

For further information please contact Gill Morral on telephone 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

S.I **July 19: HENRY & BETTY'S SUMMER DANCE**, hosted by Rainmakers IFDG, live music from Cloudburst, 8 -10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DU. No entry fee for the evening. More info from Mark (01462 454210).

Aug. 16-18: SOUTH DOWNS MINI DANCE FESTIVAL

Plumpton College, near Lewes, East Sussex. BN7 3AE. Sessions of various types of dance lead by participants. Usually European Folk, Circle, Israeli and English Folk dance. Good food, great fun and lots of dancing. Enquires to Sue Kewley, suekewley@outlook.com or phone 07743 907569.

S.I **Sep. 14-15: BALKANPLUS ROMANIAN DANCE WEEKEND** with Virgil Tăbuş from Romania, his first visit to the UK. Virgil Tăbuş is a young teacher who runs the "Şcoala de dans Tăbuş" (Tăbuş dance school) in the city of Galaţi in the east of Romania. Saturday 14th September in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY. starting at 11am - 4pm followed by the regular Balkanplus evening dance 6pm - 9pm. Sunday 15th September. 11.00am - 4.00pm. Sunday venue details and all prices to be confirmed. Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or www.balkanplus.org.uk

Oct. 5: NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP see page 3

Oct. 12-13: WORKSHOP WITH IRA WEISBURD Oving, near Chichester. rosemary.gledhill38@gmail.com



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.*

Horňácko (Czech republic)

Horňácko is a sub-region of the folkloristic region of Slovácko (Moravian Slovakia) in the south-eastern part of Moravia (in eastern Czech Republic). It borders with the Slovakian region of Myjava, equally known for its rich folkloristic traditions. It is a mildly hilly area at the foot of the Carpathian mountain range, thus the Czech name Horňácko (Upland).

The centre of Horňácko is the village of Velká nad Veličkou, Velička being the local river running through the village. The history of the village reaches back to Middle Ages (13th century). Remoteness from industrial centres imprinted distinctive regional character on the area. Somewhat isolated landscape has influenced its crafts, arts, folk costumes and other folk traditions.

While nowadays you will find preponderance of string instruments in local folk music, until 18th century it was bagpipes which dominated. There is also nearly complete absence of cimbalom which is so popular in the other sub-regions of Moravian Slovakia. The traditional set-up of the band these days usually consists of fiddles, viola, clarinet and double bass, occasionally even brass instruments. The composer Leoš Janáček, who took a lot of inspiration from Moravian folk music, considered Horňácko “the most important centre of traditional folk music in Moravian Slovakia”.

Songs, usually in a slow tempo, reflect mostly different traditional roles of men and women. The “girl” songs are often love ballads and mournful airs, while “boy” songs are recruiting and press-gang tunes, odzemok dancing songs and “ščeǵlivés” with explicitly sexual context (never played on the wireless!) Like other folkloristic centres of Moravian Slovakia (Strážnice, Kyjov), Horňácko has been organising for many years an annual folk festival of local dancing and singing and folk arts: Horňácké Slavnosti, a four-day event, this year 18th-21st July 2024.

Dal Sudwell

Spanish Dancing is alive and well

with The Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society

Recently in a SIFD News, you mentioned that it was a shame that no one is teaching and practising Spanish Dancing.

We do the dances taught to the group by Lucile Armstrong. Lucile and her husband ran an English school in Spain for ten years, before the Spanish Civil War. She learnt the folk dances of the different regions, sketched the costumes, learnt the tunes and the words. When the war broke out they moved to Portugal, where they taught again and she studied the Portuguese folk dances. She returned to England in 1944.

She taught dance to a small group for many years until 1972, when one of her pupils took over. She continued to teach at home. The group was only registered in 1975.

There were a few teachers after Lucile. I joined the group 26 years ago. At that time June Cole did the teaching but it was mostly 'copy the dances and improve week by week'. After June, Jackie Musgrave did the teaching.

I have forgotten many of those first dances like the Valencian and the Catalan dances but we do dances from Andalucia and Mallorca plus a few other Jotas.

The Andalucian dances are: Ole de la Curra, El Ole, Porompompero, Espana Cani, Guajiras, Tangos, Zambra Moro, La Reja, Sevillanas.

The Mallorcan dances are: L'Offerta, Parada de Valdemossa, Copeo Matanze, Jota Antiga, Jota Redonda, Jota Mallorquina, Bolero Mallorquin. We also do three Basque dances - Zaspí Jauziak, Zozo Dantza and Carnaval. We had a workshop with one of the Galicians but the group found the footwork tricky.

Someone taught the group a few Mexican traditional dances - La Bruja, Jesusita en Chihuahua, Jota Tapatia, Chotis de la frontera, Jarabe Tapatia (the hat dance), La Bamba (tying the knot, wedding dance), Chiapanecas.

Because I have spent many years studying Latin American dances, I have introduced some of those to the group. We were taught Carnaval by Jessica of Baila Peru and Festejo by Flavia Mesurier, another experienced Peruvian dancer. I learnt La Chacarera from my Argentinian Tango teachers. Then there is Contradanza and La Rueda from my Cuban dance teachers. I learnt Bambuco from an expert Colombian dance teacher. Then there are the dance styles where you create your own dances from set steps. I call them social/national dances like Samba - Brazil, Salsa and Conga - Cuba, Cumbia - Colombia, Merengue - Dominican Republic.

As I am South African, I have taught a few of those dances to the group. I used to have a group called The Proteas. Most of them have now died or can no longer dance. For quite a while the Iberian group used to help out as the dances are quite easy. Now we are one group as only five of the original group still dance. As some of us have been in the group for a long time we remember the dances quite well. We spend two months on each style to perfect it as best we can. We often perform these dances in Care Homes when I give information and we play music, of that region and share some steps with the residents and/or carers.

We also take part in outdoor festivals like the late Queen's Jubilee Pageant, Bloomsbury Festival, Elephant Park Festival and in September a Latin American festival at Calthorpe Project and in the streets of Kings Cross. Before my time, guitarists used to play Spanish music. We now have six who play ukuleles and two who play guitars. We have performed once but intend to do more of this.

We have 20 students from England, Ireland, Scotland, South Africa, the Phillipines, Spain, Poland, Trinidad, Romania, China, Malaysia, Peru, Colombia, Jamaica.

Elsa Perez
Iberian Folk Dance & Music Society

Boerenplof

The version of the dance Boerenplof, as danced in the international recreational folk dance community (IRFDC), was created by the Dutch folk dance specialist Elly Olderaan in 1981.

The Dutch music group Mie Katoen issued an LP on February 1, 1980 with the title *Mie Katoen, en ons moeder hi gezeejd* (Mie Katoen, and our mom had said), containing traditional Dutch folk music. This LP was the reason Elly Olderaan created 10 new dances. The dances she created were designed for the tastes and abilities of Dutch international folk dancers.

The first step of the dance (on L to the left) is, according to Elly, to be done with a heavy accent, referring to the word 'plof' in the title of the dance (which means something like thud, bump).

Other versions of Boerenplof

In her book *Terschelling danst* (Elsche H.E. Korf-Schröder (1983), Dennis Music BV, ISBN 90-6679-002-4). Elsche Korf published another version of the Boerenplof. This dance has a completely different melody than the one from Elly Olderaan, and the dance form, figures and steps are also completely different. It is a dance resulting from field work on the island of Terschelling by different field workers, and assumed to be a traditional orally handed-down dance from the island.

Brief information on this Boerenplof that is provided in the book says (p.54): "The Frisians sometimes claim that Boerenploffen are diluted forms of Skotse Trije [RK. another traditional dance from the north of the Netherlands], but it seems more reasonable to suppose that both dances have a common ancestor."

In an earlier publication of Elsche Korf under the same title (*Terschelling danst*) from 1976, she writes (p.27) that Boerenplof is a variant of the Schotse vier. As far as I know, this version of Boerenplof is unknown in the IRFDC.

The music of Elsche's Boerenplof was released on Cadans LP Boerenplof Cadans 15042. 1983 Harmonikamuziek van Terschelling. Piet de Jong en Willem de Hek:

This dance belongs to the category of "real" folk dances. These dances were part of the repertoire of the dance groups of Terschelling and are therefore to be regarded as part of the living tradition. They are native to the people from Terschelling.

In 'Terschelling danst', a book with 32 dance notations written by Elsche Korf-Schröder, a Boerenplof is notated, which however has another melody and another dance notation.

Other references

Dr. Elise van der Ven-Ten Bensel has, in the first half of the 20th century, published extensively on Dutch folk dance. She mentions a little on Boerenplof, as a dance related to the Skotse Trije and Horlepiep.

According to van der Ven, these dances are examples of figure dances connected to sun-worship dances. Boerenplof is said to belong to the category of "plof-, spring - en stampdansen" (thud/bump, jump and stamp dances). Jumping and making caprioles while dancing in farmers dances often leads to stamping.

Boerenplof would then indicate that the stamping or thudding for many would be the main point of the dance, as a way of having more fun when not having to dance elegantly.

from the notes of **Radboud Koop**



So, apparently the Dutch international folk dancing community do the Boerenplof from **Elly Olderaan**, and Wilf's music is probably for the Boerenplof taught by **Elsche Korf**.

Ed.

Boerenplof

A mod (Intro: Last 2 bars)

Holland

Musical score for Boerenplof, featuring three staves of music with chord indications (C, G, G7, F, B) and bar numbers (6, 12). The score is in treble clef and includes a key signature change to B major.

“Wilf Horrocks’ Collection”

Roberto Haddon used to dance this in the Netherlands and has gathered information about **Boerenplof** (much of which is on page 6). Roberto suggests this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PNM2EIPP4OU>

below: Dutch dancers doing the Terschelling Boerenplof.



- * The music for **Cerná Vlňa** (black sheep) from “Czechoslovakia” will appear next month. Is it Czech or is it Slovak?

Ed.



SIFD Committee

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



WHAT'S ON IN JUNE

- S.I **Sunday 2nd SUNDAY AFTERNOON S.I.F.D. DANCE** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, NW1 7AY 2:30 - 5:30pm.
MC: Brenda Steventon & SIFD Band
- Saturday 8th DOINA PERFORMANCE** at Victoria Embankment Gardens is at 3-5pm
- S.I **Saturday 8th BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, NW1 7AY starting at 6 - 9pm. £10 (cash only please). An evening of dance with varied dance leaders. There will be an optional teaching slot from 5pm to about 5.45pm, before the main social evening. This will be an opportunity to learn steps and style for a small number of the evening dances. Any enquiries: maureen.felton@btinternet.com or www.balkanplus.org.uk
- Sunday 16th BALATON PERFORMANCE** at Victoria Embankment Gardens is at 3-5pm
- S.I **Friday 28th GENERAL COURSE WITH DALILA HEATH**, hosted by Rainmakers IFDG, 8-10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, SG6 4DU. £5.00 for the evening. More info from Mark (01462 454210).

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