

Society for International Folk Dancing

S.I.F.D. News



July 2024

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Packaging, posting and electronic distribution by Dalila Heath.

The front cover shows the French costumes of the Woodvale IFDG, which together with their Balkan ones now need new homes (page 8).

The Morena Slovak Dancers are pictured on the back page (dancing at the Tenterden Folk Festival last year).

There are tributes to the late **Barbara Shaffer** (pages 5,6)

Dal Sudwell has sent details about 'black fleas', as they used to call **Černá Vlna** at Fleet, and also the notes for **Trnka** (page 12).

Next month the music for **Gasior** from Poland will be featured and any information about it will be welcome.

Ed.



Former SIFD Iberian Group

Reading the article on Spanish dancing by Elsa Perez reminded me of the time when the SIFD ran a number of classes, each based on one country or area.

One of these was the Iberian Group which was then taught by Margaret Colato who, I believe, had attended Lucile Armstrong's classes.

In those days the SIFD put on an annual show, "See How They Dance" at the Royal Albert Hall and the Iberian group took part. I do remember that one of the dances from Mexico was the Mexican Hat Dance.

(Although I was not a member of that group I knew Margaret from another class).

Arlene Hansell





DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Aug. 5-9: MACHOL EUROPA University of Surrey, with guest teachers. IDI London: +44(0)7980451912 Info: idi.org.uk

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.

Aug.28-Sep.2: FIN D'ÊTE, Traditional Music & Dance at Kinnersley Castle, Kinnersley, Hereford HR3 6QF (page 9)

S.I **Sep. 14-15: BALKANPLUS WITH VIRGIL TĂBUŞ** (page 5)

Oct. 3- 6: TENTERDEN FOLK FESTIVAL dance display teams include Morena Slovak Dancers
www.tenterdenfolkfestival.org.uk

Oct. 5: NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP 11.00am – 4.00pm at Bramcote Memorial Hall, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. dances from Georgia, Azerbaijan and Greece – led by Chrisandra Harris. Info: Gill Morral 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com

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



Balkanplus

Balkanplus 14th & 15th September Romanian dance weekend with Virgil Tăbuș from Romania, his first visit to the UK.

Saturday 14th September in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 11.00am - 4.00pm followed by the regular Balkanplus evening dance 6pm - 9pm.

Sunday 15th September. 11.00am - 4.00pm. Sunday venue details to be confirmed.

£30 for Saturday day workshop, £10 for the Saturday Balkanplus evening, £35 for Saturday day and evening
£25 for Sunday day workshop
£50 for the whole weekend

Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our website www.balkanplus.org.uk

Maureen Felton



Barbara Shaffer

All those who've ever attended Balkanplus (even from way back) knew Barbara, and will be saddened to hear of her recent death. It was not unexpected as she had been ill for several years, and was looking increasingly frail. I say that "everyone would know her" because you couldn't possibly miss her!. Small, exuberant and often loud - if she didn't like a dance, she'd let you know, although that was a rare occurrence as she loved almost all dances. She attended almost all Balkanplus events up until March, when she was having a lot of chemotherapy, and was too weak to do much dancing. She leaves a gap that won't be easily filled, and we will miss her a great deal. We'll miss her exuberance, energy and sheer enthusiasm, and she'll stay in our memories as long as there's a Balkanplus.

Maggie O'Regan.

Barbara Shaffer

Others will probably write a fuller appreciation of her, but I would like to add how she contributed brightness to my life.

I discovered Balkanplus in '91 - and she and her late husband Malcolm were already stalwarts - and would remain so. We also were in Cathy Meunier's weekly group - and when that folded, Malcolm led a smaller group, which I was in as of course was Barbara. (Malcolm unfortunately died some time later)

But my main memories are of her immediately livening up any Balkanplus she attended - not to mention bringing her later new partner Brian into the fold; and even when she started to get sick, how many times would she say something like "I really shouldn't do these dances, but I can't keep away" (although she and Brian also greatly enjoyed the more stately pleasures of Playford Dance).

And finally, I would be rich if I had 5p for every time over the decades she would protest that she didn't know a dance - but once the music started, she would dance - perfectly.

Toni Gutman

≈

I actually only met Barbara, through the world of online dancing that emerged during Covid. She was part of various other online groups that I took part in, and then became a regular attendee of my weekly online Balkan dances which are still ongoing. She was always friendly and positive, always interested in how everyone else was doing and continued to dance with us until very close to the end. She was very courageous, and kept dancing and living far longer than the medics predicted. We all admired her positive attitude in continuing to enjoy life as much as she could, despite her serious illness. She will be much missed within our group.

Dawn Wakefield

European Folk Network Conference in Kaustinen, Finland

Tuesday 24 and Wednesday 25 September

Kaustinen - deep in Western Finland - is a very special centre for the living traditions of intangible cultural heritage and folk arts and home to our hosts the Finnish Folk Music Institute and the Kaustinen Folk Festival.

For the 2024 conference EFN and Kaustinen offers a unique opportunity to explore this remarkable part of rural Finland and its importance to folk traditions, whilst meeting and sharing ideas with a host of other people and organisations active in the folk arts from across Europe.

Register for the conference at

(<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/efn-2024-conference-in-kaustinen-tickets-901519859167>)

European Folk Network, Wijngaardstraat 5, Gooik B-1755, Belgium.

For detailed information on the programme content:

** Website (<https://www.europeanfolknetwork.com>)

** Email (<mailto:info@europeanfolknetwork.com>)



Latvian Dancers circa 1935

Halsway Manor 25-28 July 2025

We have recently returned from a great weekend at Halsway Manor and are looking forward to next year!

The SIFD has had a Weekend of Dance and Walking at Halsway Manor for over 50 years. This year 39 of us had a fantastic weekend of guided walking with Lena Bond or in-house mostly circle dancing with Maggie Kaye in the mornings, and evenings of general international dancing led by Janet Woolbar with live music from Stella Wedd and Maggie. We also found time for some afternoon dancing with Phil and Brenda Steventon, a Maypole Dancing session led by Janet and a musicians workshop led by Maggie!

This year Phil and I will be taking over the administration and our thanks go to previous organiser Ian Green - if you would like to go on our email list please let us know.

In 2025 the date has changed to 25-28 July, a 4pm Friday to 10am Monday weekend. Unfortunately, Halsway Manor, at very short notice have not let us have the May Bank Holiday weekend. Of the three alternative weekends they offered, the only one all the leaders can make is 25-28 July 2025.

Please consider room sharing - this year there were 39 of us and we only had one spare room, but the house has a total capacity of 69 beds. To allow more people to join us we need people to share the large number of twin and multi-bedded rooms in the property. The next three months would be an ideal time to chat with others to discuss this.

The Halsway Manor room plans are here:

<https://halswaymanor.org.uk/your-visit/accomodation/bedroom-plan/>

First floor bedroom plan



In the autumn, we will email out the usual first-come first-served form to fill in, with room preferences and dietary requirements, the weekend programme, costs, and details of the deposit to pay to secure your room. Please email or give us a call if you have any questions, Email: brenda.steventon@btinternet.com Home: 020-8397-9649

Brenda and Phil Steventon



Fin d'été Kinnersley programme

Thursday - Swedish, French dance and music workshops
Bal de midi - lunch/tango - concert - dinner - evening Bal
Friday - Swedish, French dance and music workshops -
Bal de midi - lunch/tango - concert - dinner - evening Bal
Saturday - Swedish, Greek, French dance and music
workshops - Bal de midi - lunch/tango - concert - dinner
- evening Bal
Sunday - Balkan, French, Swedish dance and music
workshops - Bal de midi - lunch/tango - concert - dinner
- evening Bal

Camping in grounds of Kinnersley Castle.

john.leopold@wanadoo.fr emade.org.uk

Richard Mellish

Woodvale IFDG Costumes

Woodvale IFDG in Borough Green, Kent are having to get rid of some more costumes due to a decline in numbers and storage facilities no longer being available for all our costumes.

Before we discard them, is anyone from the SIFD interested in taking any of these Balkan or French costumes? They are free to anyone who is interested. They would need to be collected, or occasionally we go to SIFD events in London.



Balkan costumes

These were made by ladies from Woodvale, rather than being authentic costumes, as per the photograph.

We have 5 men's costumes, approximately size 38/40" chest plus a boy's aged about 10. The men's all have red waistcoats.

(Balkan costume coloured photo was on the back cover of the October 2023 issue. Ed.)

We have 9 ladies costumes, approximately size 12 to 16. There are 6 with red waistcoats and 3 with black.

We also have a selection of Balkan shoes available, approximately sizes 5 to 7, as per the photograph.



French Costumes *(front cover)*

Mostly made by the ladies from Woodvale IFDG. We have men's tops and ladies dresses, made up of one man's costume and two lady's costumes per region as follows. The lady's costumes are mostly sizes 10 to 14.

Auvergne region: man's grey smock, lady's grey dresses with red apron.

Bordeaux region: one set of 3 costumes in red stripes, (plus a boy's waistcoat), and one man's and one lady's in purple stripes.

Burgundy region: man's blue smock, lady's blue dresses.

Chalon's region: peasant style costumes, man's blue smock, lady's costumes in blue/grey.

Chalon's region: posh style costumes which came from France in the 1970s. The lady's costumes are only about size 8, made from a nylon material. The man's has a waistcoat, breeches and a long grey overcoat.

For more details, please contact Heather Dascalescu on heatherdascalescu@gmail.com or 07932 376119.

Thank you.

Heather Dascalescu
Woodvale IFDG

Černá Vlna

Černá vlna is a folk song and dance from Moravian Valachia, an easternmost area of the Czech Republic near the border with Slovakia. In full the first line of the song runs as follows: Černá vlna na bílém beránku (Black fleece on a white lamb) and, like in several other folk songs, has no real connection with the rest of the text, apart from being onomatopoetic and scanning and rhyming nicely with it. I have heard several slightly different versions in the past, but the one to which I danced and which stuck in my memory goes as follows:

Černá vlna na bílém beránku.
Kam ses mi zatúlal, černooký Janku?
Já sa túlám od dediny k městu,
idu sobě hledat bohatú nevěstu.
Řikajú, že mi ji nedajú,
ale dajú, dajú, a ještě přidajú.

(in my translation)

Black fleece on a white lamb,
Where have you disappeared, black-eyed Johnny?
I've been wandering from the village to the town
In search of a rich bride.
They say they won't give her to me,
But they will, they will, and they'll add something, too.

In another version, Janek is blue-eyed and travels to meet a miller with a pretty daughter.

I learnt the dance many years ago at a Dvorana course in Prague under the guidance of Radek Rejšek, but – I believe – he sourced it from the rich treasure-trove of František Bonuš. On my return from Prague, I remember, I introduced the dance to our little group in Fleet, and it remained in our repertoire for several years afterwards. And, unless I am mistaken, a few years ago when we still enjoyed the annual Dance around the World festival, the Beskydy dancers included Černá vlna in their display.

It was paired with Trnka, which is a different dance from the same geographical area.

By the way, *černá vlna* is pronounced chair-nah vel-nah, with the stress on chair and vel. And if you'd like to have a go at the dance, I have kept the crib: (Note: "cifra" is meant to be a male show off.)

(notes overleaf)

Dal Sudwell



Trnka

All in big circle, holding hands

1 – 8 8 trnka (hopping) steps to R and pivot on the last step

9 – 16 8 trnka steps to L

17 – 20 (facing centre) R foot slightly forward, wriggle out and in (3 times) + pas de basque

21 – 24 repeat bars 17 – 20 with the L foot

25 – 32 repeat bars 17 – 24, finish facing partner

33 – 40 Trnka – Partners turning with trnka (hopping) step in trnka hold (ie. both dancers holding hands with R arm round partner's waist, L arm behind one's own waist) – progressing forward on the circle while turning – on the last bar partners separate

40 – 48 lady, continues turning with trnka step on her own, progressing forward Man, follow his partner dancing forward with trnka step, handclaps optional

Dal Sudwell



Cerná Vlna (Black Sheep)

Czechoslovakia



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Černá Vlna

Introduction (7 bars)

All holding hands in a big circle in couples (man has his partner on the right)

1 – 4 4 side-steps to the R – swaying arms

5 – 8 4 side-steps to the L – swaying arms

9 – 12 face partner for "cifra" (R foot in the air, turn out and in + pas de basque, Repeat with L foot.)

13 – 15 handclap (optional) and r-hand elbow turn

16 – 22 repeat bars 9 – 15 (cifra + turn)

23 – 44 Repeat bars 1 – 22

Facing partner

45 – 48 holding R hands, 4 side-steps into the circle (ie. men to L, ladies to R – sway arms

49 – 52 repeat bars 45 – 48 outward

53 – 56 man, pas de basque (to R only) + 3 hops in a small circle to L, starting on L foot, R knee lifted and handclap under Lady, pas de basque (to R and L) + 4 steps in a small circle to R

57 – 59 handclap and R hand elbow turn with partner

60 – 66 repeat bars 53 – 59

67 – 88 Repeat bars 45 – 66

Dal Sudwell





SIFD Committee

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



WHAT'S ON IN JULY

- S.I **Friday 19th 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).



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

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.*