

October 2024



SIED News



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

This is the **Väva Vadmal** issue! The pictures front and back show it being danced and there are helpful contributions from Jeanette Hull and Jill Bransby (pages 10-14). I am getting to grips with it apart from the “**change hands**” bit (aargh).

Ed.



Zoom for the AGM

Sunday 27th October

Here are the details for joining the AGM by zoom:

Join the SIFD AGM Zoom Meeting by clicking on this link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/75899097641?pwd=R3JIS3U3MHVjWi9WNTlaY0FpaUtIUT09>

Or typing in the details here: Meeting ID: 758 9909 7641

Passcode: dance

If you don't have a computer for Zoom at home you can dial in to this meeting using Tel: 020 3695 0088 and entering the Meeting ID above followed by #

Brenda Steventon



Dear Janet,

You wrote about **Väva Vadmal** in the SIFD News. The Rainmakers danced this in 1994 at The Hitchin Gathering which took place every year in Hitchin Town Hall and was organised by the Staplers English Country Dance Club (*overleaf*). Each year we would practice and perform and make many sets of costumes, but for this Swedish performance we borrowed the costumes from the SIFD. The (*cover*) photos were taken by Ray Kerr at the Gathering.

Jill Bransby

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Nov. 9: YGRA - BALKANPLUS see below

Nov. 16: BULGARIAN DANCE COURSE with Desi Radulovska at Calver Village Hall 10.30 - 16.30. Further details from Greg Boyd on gregboyd99@aol.com or 07810181273.

SI **Dec.14: BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Admission £10 (cash only please) An evening of dance with varied dance leaders, includes live music with Kolotek Trio. Any enquiries to maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our website www.balkanplus.org.uk

SI **Feb. 23: SLIGHTLY FOREIGN DANCES FROM ABROAD** at Pulborough Village Hall, RH20 2BP. £10 Times :10:30am - 3:30pm details: Janet Douglas 01243 265010. Bring a picnic lunch. DIY Tea and Coffee available all day

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.*



Ygra – at Balkanplus

Learn to folk dance Balkan-style with Ygra – Balkan ‘Ceilidh’ at Balkanplus. No need for a partner, special clothes/footwear or experience.

Saturday 5th October 2024 7pm-10pm **(NB This is a changed date)**

Saturday 9th November 2024 7pm-10pm

7 - 7.45pm: Practice the essential steps with Charlotte and Gabor (on accordion) 8 - 10pm: Put your freshly gained skills to practice with live music from across the Balkans played by Ygra at Balkanplus.

All welcome: Trefusis. Cecil Sharp House, London. £10 pay on the door or in advance via Ygra facebook page:

www.facebook.com/ygraband/

Charlotte Clare



Let's dance - Caucasus special 2025 -

“We would have loved to stay longer”

Georgia August 14-27 and **Armenia** August 26-September 11
with Tineke & Maurits van Geel. Destinations that have not yet been
ruined by mass tourism, although they do see an increase in visitors.
You see the highlights of the countries, but also the hidden gems.
Visit our website. www.tinekevangeel.nl
Both tours are also suitable for non-dancers.

Tineke van Geel



KlezMargate

18-20 October 2024

The festival's home there will be the ARK in Margate, a beautiful
former synagogue saved from auction and now a thriving arts centre.
KlezMargate will include an all-star klezmer concert; singing, dance
and music workshops; late evening jamming and schmoozing; and a
big Sunday afternoon dance event. Our flexible ticketing means you
can build your own festival experience.

Your performers and teachers will be: Anna Lowenstein-*violin*, Daniel
Gouly-*clarinet*, Flora Curzon-*violin/voice*, Simon Roth-*drums*, Ilana
Cravitz-*violin/dance*, Francesca Ter-Berg-*cello/voice*, Pieter St
Nicholas-*dance/trumpet*, John Macnaughton-*clarinet/sax*, Rachel
Weston-*voice*, and Josh Middleton-*accordion*.

Find out more +447825510881 / ticket options:
<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/klezmermargate>

Ilana Cravitz

Jean Willson 1936-2024



Sadly, I have to say Jean passed away on August 25th 2024 in a care home following a gruelling battle with cancer. She had just celebrated her 88th birthday!

Jean has had a long association with the SIFD. She met her husband, Ian, at Cecil Sharp House in 1960 and they have been dancing all their married life. They founded Woodvale International Folk Dance Group in Kent in 1968 and have been stalwart dancers at Loidis International Folk Dance Group in Leeds since the 1980s.

Jean has been by Ian's side at dance workshops and events throughout many years. They celebrated their Platinum Wedding Anniversary in 2022! Jean said she couldn't imagine life without music and dance! I'm sure we all agree with her. Jean was a dear friend and has supported me over the years with her gentle kindness. She will remain a treasure in our hearts and her strength will be an inspiration to me always. Jean will be missed by us all. Rest in peace now, my dear friend.

Lorna Ramsden
Loidis International Folk Dance Group



Woodvale International Folk Dance Group

It is with a heavy heart and great sadness that I have to let you know that Woodvale IFDG has now closed down.

We had dwindled down to seven people and it was a struggle. We decided to close down now whilst we all had good memories of the group.

The group first met in November 1967 and was led by Ian & Jean (who sadly passed away recently) and Ernie & Eileen. Weekly subscription would be two shillings an adult and one shilling for under 18s.

In January 1968 the group was going well, a local newspaper reported that only a few weeks after it started it had more than 30 members and was still growing. From January 1968 annual membership was set at 7 shillings and 6 pence (5 shillings for under 18s).

Over the years we have done many demos at WI meetings and village fetes. We held a reasonably priced annual dance (for example in 1973 it would cost you 40 pence). We have also socialised a lot with an annual barbecue, walk and an outing to a historic place then the seaside.

We would like to thank the SIFD for their support over the years, encouraging us to lead evenings at Cecil Sharp House and also having so many good teachers. We would especially like to thank all the teachers over the years who journeyed down to Borough Green (a small village in Kent) to teach us new dances and also become good friends to the group.

We have 27 scrap books of happy memories and although it is sad that we have closed down, we can be proud of the fact that the group ran for 2 months short of 57 years, a wonderful legacy for Ian & Jean and Ernie & Eileen.

Thank you all once again,

David Mckie

(secretary Woodvale International Folk Dance Group)

Further excerpts from ‘**The Dictionary of the Dance**’

by W.G.Raffe

Wapen-Reyers (Netherlands)

Local name for Sword Dancers; though as the records are merged with Mores or Moressen-dans, the precise dance is vague. Municipal archives of Dordrecht mention a Sword Dance, dated 1392. There is one three years earlier noted at Bruges; but we do not know if it was the same, or a similar dance performed in 1389. Some of these, were linked with the May Games; and these associated with De Covert or the band of Robin Hood and Friar Tuck, who is known as De Paterje (Little Father). The Frere, with Japie (Little John) chose a girl to be May Queen; this custom endures in the far south in Limburg, at Valkenburg. In other places, De Zevensprung (Seven jumps) is seen with the May Games, but, with Brabant Bezom (Broom) Dance has disappeared. A Mores dance has to suffer change before being permitted to associate with any church ceremony; but the northern cintola is retained, in the Garland Dance at Deventer, though not around or in, a church.

Wiwat (Poland)

The fisherfolk of Pomerania on the Baltic coast have their own dances, in addition to the Mazurka and Krakowiak performed throughout Poland. One of these is the Wiwat, performed only by men, skilfully moving through the movements of the dance with a mug of beer in one hand. The men's traditional long, dark blue coat with shoulder cape, is seldom worn now in Pomerania, nor do the women wear their red or white skirts with gold embroidered black bodice.



As you can see we are nearing the end of the alphabet. **Ed.**

Aulona Interfolk Festival 2025

As I mentioned in the August SIFD magazine, I intend to take a group to the festival in Vlora in 2025. Next year's festival will be running from 24th-26th May 2025, so I would like to take a group from about 23rd-27th May.

As well as daily flights from Stansted on Ryanair and Luton on Wizzair, there are flights on most days from Heathrow to Tirana.



Ryanair are also running flights from Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester and Edinburgh on some days of the week.

Some folk in the group this year extended their trips at either end by staying in Tirana or touring other parts of the country.

I have yet to discuss prices for next year, but I would love to hear from folk who are interested in coming to the festival to learn Albanian folk dances and see folk groups from other parts of Eastern Europe and further afield.

Please email me at penny.munden50@gmail.com

Penny Munden

Jill's notes for the MC at the Hitchin Gathering 1994:

“Today the Rainmakers are presenting a weaving dance from Sweden. This is called Våva Vadmal and the patterns of the dance are supposed to represent the winding of the wool and the movements of the loom whilst the cloth is woven.

Long-dances, set dances and couple dances still thrive in Sweden.

The long dances (circles and lines) were danced originally in Medieval times in many parts of Europe, especially Southern France.



The couple dances have been influenced by foreign fashions, the polska and the mazurka coming from Poland, whilst the Schottische was probably introduced from Germany and was popular at the beginning of the nineteenth century.



The weaving dance is typical of the long, complicated set dances which developed more in the towns.

Swedish folk dances were almost lost at the end of the nineteenth century but, as in England, there has been a vigorous folk dance revival led by Artur Hazelius, (the Swedish Cecil Sharp!)

The Rainmakers are wearing a variety of Swedish regional costumes which have been loaned from the Society for International Folk Dancing.

The music starts with a gänglät (pronounced gong lot) which is a slow march and is played by members of Rainmakers and ‘Cloudburst’ led by Martin Butler. The Rainmakers meet virtually every Friday in Letchworth to dance a variety of mainly European folk dances from many countries and they welcome new members.

Today they present: Våva Vadmal (pronounced Veyver Vadmile)”

From Svenska Folkdanser (Svenska Ungdomsringen för Bygdekultur 1964), translation mostly by Google Translate with some editing by me.

Jeanette Hull

Väva Vadmal

“Among all our old folk dances and games, none is probably more famous and widespread in our country than Väva Vadmal. Where this dance originally came about is probably difficult to decide nowadays, but as it was created to symbolize an ancient Swedish home craft, wadmal weaving, it has gradually become a popular game of both old and young, and especially at Christmas parties it has been played in most of our landscapes.

The folk dancers have taken up play among their dances and have arranged the different figures, which in different parts of the country are performed in different ways and in different mutual order, so that the dance would have a definite character and the different turns easily flow together with each other.

The artist Wallander (1821-1888) reproduces an image of the dance in his beautiful painting “Väva vadmal, danslek i Delsbo”, signed in 1875, from which it is clear that the dance was already one of the popular dance games of the village youth in Delsbo. Whether the dance originated in Delsbo is not easy to find out now, but it seems somewhat tame for the healthy and lively spirit of the Delsbo people. The Polish (*Polka?*) to which it is danced does not indicate any greeting melody, rather a melody from Östergötland or Scania. The dance is described in Arvidsson's work Svenska Fornsångers, published in 1842, part 3 p. 196, where text, melody and description are found.

The dance can be performed by any number of even-numbered couples, but the different turns go best with the music if they are performed by eight couples, which is why the description has come to refer to the said number of couples. We would like to point out, however, that if the dance is performed by more or fewer couples, each turn should start with a new repetition of the music.

notes “Danslek” translates as dance-play or dance-game and wadmal is a coarse, dense wool fabric. Delsbo is in Hälsingland.

(with thanks to Google Translate!)

Acknowledgments to Jill, Jeanette and the book; the notes for **Väva Vadmal** below are simplified notes (in English folk dance parlance) and a picture reference where possible.

*

8 couple longways inverted set. (8s at top)

Lines fwd, 1st couple run to top while Lines retire, Lines fwd, 1st couple run to bottom - Lines retire. Lines fwd, 1st couple arm R. to middle as Lines retire.

Strip the Willow - (*photo on back page*)

1st man arm L. with top lady, 1st lady arm L with bottom man etc.
finish: 1st couple arm R. to bottom by 2nd man.

1s Arch over lines - (*Painting on front cover & top photo on p.10*)

1st couple arch over mens line (one knee) to top, 1st couple arch over ladies line (one knee) to bottom. 1st couple run to top, odd couples face down, evens face up.

Dip 'n' Dive - odds make arches first, continue to place (1s next to 8s)

Poussettes - (*bottom photo on p.10*) odds pulling, evens pushing to place. Last 2 bars: **change hands!** Lady keep partner's R. hand and pass own R. hand under arch to take L. hand of man on left. Man keep partner's L. hand and takes R. hand of lady on his left. 2nd lady puts R. hand on hip, 1st man puts L. hand on hip.

Tunnels - (*front cover*) 2nd lady leads the line down through the tunnel and turns left back to place.



(opposite) 2nd couple raise hands, lady turning R., man turning L. Ladies keep hands high. 3rd lady leads her partner under the arch both turning outward. Couples follow until the tunnel is reformed. Repeat the tunnel **but** - as 2nd lady leads the line down through the tunnel the 1st man stands still to form the centre of the spiral.



Spiral - 2nd lady runs for 24 bars to form the spiral.

1st man leads out through the nearest arch and any other arches.


1st man circles clockwise to form a big circle. *(above - although the man in the photo does appear to be circling anti-clockwise, with all men facing out as ladies face in)*

Chain - *(below)* partners arm R. twice around and arm L. twice around with next until meeting partner. arm R again. take 2-hand hold with partner and dance 4 Ostgöta steps, finish facing centre.



Vava Vadmal

Sweden

 = 144
Play 15 times + 1 extra B



"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Jeanette Hull found videos of the music from last month - **Paschada Flugs Ummi. (Pascherter Flugssummi):**

https://www.dancilla.com/wiki/index.php?title=Paschader_Flugsummi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1u66-8CSVQc>

Jeanette also found the picture of **Väva Vadmal** (*front page*) painted by Josef Wilhelm Wallander.



Hi Janet,

Paschada/Paschader/Paschater Flugs-ummi is an Austrian dance similar to Lunzer Boarischer - the latter features in the SIFD books as just "Boarischer". The name is in dialect and means "Clappy Move-Over-Quickly". It refers to a sharp turn, sometimes with a jump, that the man performs towards the end of the figure to come face to face with his partner for the clapping. I've found two videos online, although in one of them most of the men seem to be doing a lazy version - the sharp turn can best be observed on the female "chap" on the left.

Silvia McIntyre



Next month the music for **Seguidillas Sevillanas** (Spain)...
over to you..... **Ed.**





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C.I.O. number 1189141



WHAT'S ON IN OCTOBER

Saturday 5th YGRA - BALKANPLUS see page 4

Saturday 5th NUTBROOK DANCE WORKSHOP 11.am – 4.pm
at Bramcote Memorial Hall, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. with Chrisandra
Harris, info: Gill Morral 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com

Sat.12th-Sun.13th WORKSHOP WITH IRA WEISBURD Oving,
near Chichester. rosemary.gledhill38@gmail.com

S.I Friday 25th RAINMAKERS 48th ANNIVERSARY DANCE,
7.30pm-10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, Herts,
SG6 4YF. £10. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst.
information, contact Mark (01462454210) or markbalaam2@sky.com

Sunday 27th A.G.M. St. George's church, Hamilton Ave, Tolworth.
Surrey KT6 7PT 2.30pm (and Zoom) followed by Tea dance 'til 6pm

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

