

Ruritanian International Folkdance Club, Inc.

Website: www.folkdance.nz Our specific page: ruritaniains.folkdance.nz

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CONTENTS FEATURE:

- **Reports: Travelogues**
- **Obituary: Pam Sikkema**
- **Exciting news: Details of our Christmas party. Diary it with your group.
Planning next year's 40th Anniversary – with your input, please!**

COVER PHOTOS:

Front: *Impromptu dancing at a forest lake beauty spot, with our Turkish musicians.*

Back: *EFDSS signpost, with hobby-horse atop, Regents Park, London*

President's Musings

Time has flown again, and the next edition of the Roundabout is here! There have been wonderful opportunities to dance outside Auckland, including an International Dance workshop and dance party in Hamilton on 13th October, held by Dance Folkus with the support of Folk Dance NZ. Two folk dancers taught dances they had learned on tour abroad – Bronwen Arlington and Jane Luiten. Sadly it was poorly attended by dancers from Auckland. I for one I was returning from a GP locum in New Plymouth, and therefore unable to attend. We appreciate all the work put into the organisation of such an event, and I hear from those that attended that a good time was had by all.

The national Israeli Dance weekend, Machol Pacifica, was held this year in Whanganui over Labour Weekend. The tutor was Pamela Schwartz, originally from Argentina, then Auckland, but now living in Australia. Again this was a huge success, and I am benefiting from learning the dances at Rae's class. I particularly enjoy Normali.

In this Roundabout we will hear tales of Rae's adventures and also from Beth of her travels in England.

Plans are on the way for our Christmas party on 8th December, where we will be doing lots of dancing. Bring the music to your favourite dances, together with some food from your culture, and let's just have fun doing what we all enjoy.

We continue to prepare for the 40th celebration of our Club on the 21st September 2019. Please get out old photos and memorabilia and remind us of anyone you think needs to be invited. Make sure the date is in your diary.

Murray is returning from his extensive travels this month, and we look forward to hearing from him, as well as Lindsay who met up with him for three weeks. I continue to enjoy my dancing in Rae's loft and the Kayak hall. I wish I had more time to do more!

Happy dancing!

Love

— *Maggie*

SAD NEWS

Our friend and colleague Pam Sikkema lost her brave long battle with cancer on Monday 29th October

Coming Events

- **Club Christmas Party, Saturday 8th December:**

This year it will be just us, dancers and dance groups, family and friends. Please plan to come, bringing a dinner dish of your favourite home-culture food, and your best fun dances for sharing with us all – bring music on CD or USB stick.

Venue will be a hall in the historic Community House @ 83 Selwyn St, Onehunga.

Time: 6:30 to 10pm. Entry \$5 adult, children free. More details on the poster, p.4.

- **Auckland Highland Games & Gathering, Sat. 17th November**

Ellerslie Event Centre, Ascot Avenue, Remuera. Music, dancing, haggis tossing, historical fighting, and more. 10am - 5pm. Free event.

- **Nepal Festival, Saturday 17th November.**

Food art and culture of Nepal. Aotea Square, CBD. 12 noon to 6pm. Free event.

- **Romanian National Day, Sat. 1st December.**

Centennial of their Great Union. Parnell Rose Gardens, 10am to 6pm, with an international programme of performances from 2pm. Free event, with Romanian food on sale throughout.

- **Amira Brock's Flamenco concert, Sunday 25th November.**

St Luke's Hall, 704 New North Rd, 5pm. Adults \$10, concession \$7.

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Sat. 21st Sept. 2019: Our Club's 40th Anniversary Celebrations

To work on the content of this, your Committee need to know your desires for it.

Please reply ASAP to the questions below, by email to: raestorey36@gmail.com

or by post to Rae Storey, 24a Dell Avenue, Remuera, Auckland 1050.

- **Proposal:** A sit-down catered dinner, with drinks and chat from 6pm. Speeches to be interesting, eg memories, rather than formal tributes. Video and photographic record of activities and people over the years. Some dance performances by associated groups.
- **Remark:** We still have to work out how to give guests the freedom to move around and talk with many different others during the evening.
- **Any comments, for or against? And details, or other suggestions?**
- **Special questions:** Should there be **participation dancing**?
- If so, would you like and attend a **workshop** during that day to revise old favourites? (Yes, we know people will need to go rest and shower before the celebration begins.)
- Please name **favourite dances** you would like to have on the programme.

Please start collecting thoughts (and notes) on reminiscences, to be included in the speeches and/or the special edition of the Roundabout.

Also photos - both digital and hard copy, old and newer. They will ALL be precious.



*Christmas party:
Come all!*

*Saturday 8th December, 6.30
to 10pm.*

Potluck feast

Easy fun dancing

Quiz

Santa Lucia

**Dress-up (Christmas
theme - prizes)**

- Bring:**
- Your favourite cultural dish (dinner or dessert).
 - \$5 door charge (kids free)
 - Music for dancing (on CD or USB stick)
 - Gift (not wrapped) for Salvation Army's Xmas distribution to needy families

**Venue is the historic Onehunga Community House
83 Selwyn St, Onehunga.**

Parking is easy - in the grounds and along the streets.

Please let us know if you are coming, so that we can set up
the right number of dining tables, plates, etc.

Contact is Rae: raestorey36@gmail.com, ph 524-9504

Pam Sikkema

For a good number of years, Pam was a merry member of Rae's Monday dance group. When incurable forms of cancer struck her, the treatment for it, and severe pain with some of it, did not stop her dancing, and playing tennis too, until the activities became impossible. Then she kept on giving, as secretary to both the tennis club and our Ruritanian Club. Until May this year Pam helped me with the distribution tasks for the Roundabout, but this August, for the first time in many years, Dot did not have her right-hand girl helping on the Winter WarmUp reception desk and with producing the workshop lunch.

Pam has spent all but her last few days at home, in the loving care of her daughter, her son and grandson. Her passing, on Monday 29th October, was gentle.

We have already been missing her. Now we grieve for her and for her family in their loss of her. Several of us will attend the celebration of her life.

— *Rae Storey*



See our Bronwen as The Lady in the Van!

Bronwen Arlington is the star in a current production of Alan Bennett's great true-to-life play, *The Lady in the Van*, which many of us will have seen as a film starring Maggie Smith. The Gala first night is Thursday 8th November. There are seven more 8pm performances and two matinees. In Ellerslie, at the Stables Theatre, cnr Main Highway and Arthur St. Google the name adding the word "Ellerslie", and book on i-Ticket.



Beth's Travels

Eight weeks travelling overseas was always going to bring surprises, discoveries, frustrations and further experiences of fellow humans. My husband and I started our "retirement" trip to the UK with a side trip to the once communist city of Prague in the Czech Republic. Apart from the cities of Prague, London, Cambridge and Oxford, our adventures were mainly in the country or villages of England. Even a trip to Stratford-upon-Avon took us into the countryside to see where William Shakespeare's mother lived at what is now a working Tudor farm. We were based in Coton, a charming village three miles out of Cambridge, which allowed us to return to the beautiful University town which has been our home on two previous occasions. Visiting Oxford also was like going home, as over the years we have lived there too and have made good friends.

A three week road trip around Cornwall and Devon was a great adventure. We stayed in nine different B&B's, so at the end of the trip felt that we were connoisseurs of this type of accommodation. There was only one that did not meet our expectations although in two others our room just took the bed, the en-suites being the size of cupboards.

Generally, there are two types of B&Bs. There are the larger ones which are like small hotels and rather impersonal. We preferred the smaller ones that have two or three guest rooms, where getting to know the hosts and other guests enriches the trip.

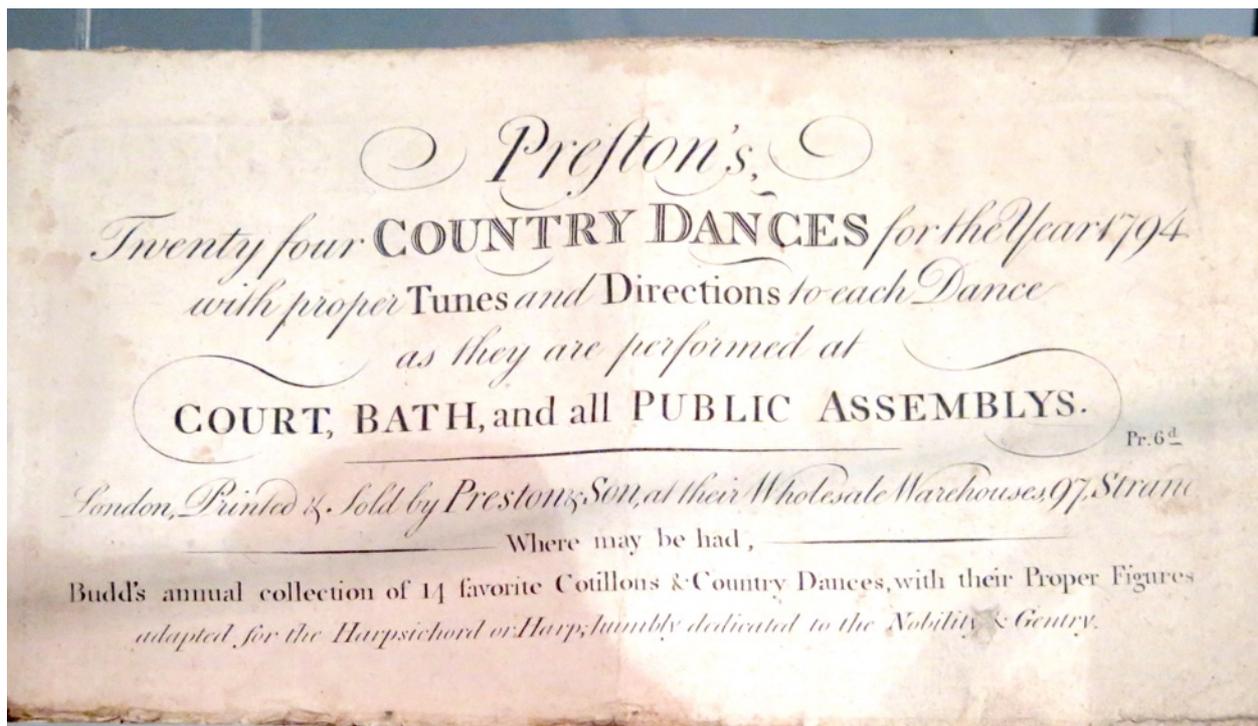


We learnt the order in which the jam and clotted cream goes on the scone for cream teas (Cornish, the jam on first; Devon, the cream on first – this is most important!); we stayed in Helston, famous for its Furry Dance (but wrong time of year for us); we walked along cliff edges to view the beautiful turquoise waters of Cornwall; we explored villages made famous by television programmes of Doc Martin (Port Isaac) and Poldark (Charlestown); clambered over the cliffs at Tintagel, supposedly where the mythical King Arthur lived; and ate breakfast by candlelight in a large 17th century farm house which was full of books and art work. National Trust properties never cease to impress us. Being Heritage New Zealand members, we make use of the reciprocal arrangement in the UK. Visiting these houses and gardens is inspirational. The properties are immaculate, both inside and outside. There is nothing more pleasurable than wandering

around gardens and estates on a warm afternoon. We particularly enjoy the homes and gardens of people who have made their mark in society. We visited the somewhat modest home (compared to some of the large extravagant homes of the aristocracy) of William Morris, Lord Nuffield, who founded Morris Motors Ltd in Oxford and was a great philanthropist. This is in the southern part of Oxfordshire. The other home we particularly liked was the Arts and Crafts style country home in South Devon of the D'Oyly Carte family who established, among other things, the professional light opera company.

A special trip was made to Dorchester to follow the footprints of Thomas Hardy, the English novelist and poet. In the Dorset County Museum, Hardy's study from his home at Max Gate is re-constructed. The room includes his books, manuscripts, musical instruments (his father's violin as well as his own) and country dance manuals. As a young

man, he used to play the violin with his father and uncle for wedding dances, christenings and dances. He loved the local Dorset folksongs and dance music, and even in later life,



would get out his violin and play. Thomas Hardy wove many a song and dance into his tales. We visited the cottage where he was born in Higher Bockhampton as well as Max Gate on the outskirts of Dorchester where he lived from the age of 45 until his death in 1928 aged 88 years. Earlier while in North Devon we had visited St Juliot's Church where as a young architect, Hardy was sent to plan the restoration of the building. It was here that he met his first wife, Emma Gifford, who was the sister-in-law of the local vicar.

I was fortunate enough to attend a day-long session of The Quadrille Club at Cecil Sharp House in London, the headquarters of the English Folk Dance and Song Society. What a wonderful day it was, where Christine and Ellis Rogers covered eight dances from the Victorian period – Quadrilles, Mazurkas including Varsoviana, and country dances.

Despite the woes of Brexit, England remains a great place for New Zealanders to visit.

— Beth Harris

Adventuring in the Caucasus

For three weeks July-August I took part in a tour of the Caucasus, organized for a global party of sixty-odd dancers by Tineke and Maurits van Geel and Turkish music and dance specialists Turgay and Ahmet. One of the chief pleasures and interests of the trip was not on the programme: the fascinating others one journeyed and dined with. Lots of Dutch and Americans, of course, six Kiwis and one Aussie, a Swedish and a French Canadian couple, Germans, and an American Jewish sociology professor working in Switzerland, married to an Egyptian and organizing folkdance festivals on a large scale. Notably a number had been refugees, or the children of refugees, Armenian, Jewish, and others. Many in our group had done enterprising often socially useful things with their lives – such as the Californian woman whose community involvements include a free boat-lending service for families on Sundays. With volunteer help she maintains a variety of small boats and skiffs herself, and enjoys introducing the locals of her small estuary town to the simple skills needed before they push off for the morning. My room-mate Dalila (pronounced *Da-lee-la*) is a lovely British Armenian woman born on Cyprus to an Armenian refugee family, who moved again to Britain when Cyprus too blew up into ethnic strife. Dalila keeps an apartment in Yerevan as you and I would keep a holiday bach, and visits friends and extended family. But she



says few ex-pat Armenians would move back now – those well-educated industrious people have done well in their adoptive countries.

We did enough dancing and dance-watching to satisfy most of us: a pair of dance lessons in each country, dinner in towns or villages where local groups then performed for us (see young Armenians in photo) and joined us in; formal stage performances, and impromptu dancing at the odd sightseeing spot during a bus trip, all accompanied by music on local instruments (see cover photo). Our Jane Luiten and her daughters Pareoranga and Te Huamanuka made one surprise addition during an after-dinner entertainment, one that nobody will forget: a beautifully danced and sung Maori waiata.

But we did a lot of hiking – and long bus journeys to access it. In

planning the programme the van Geels clearly knew that international folk dancers tend to be not only lovers of cultural travel and music but of “hiking in nature”. We did some rustication in natural surroundings, but the goals of the hiking were mostly into history as well as mountainous terrain: monasteries and castles on awe-inspiring sites, remote or commanding according to purpose. One such monastery had a three-storey church, the main church being on the second level, approached by a narrow outside staircase that made churchgoing a pilgrimage. (See it in the photo, today’s visitors holding a cable for safety.) We also saw cave settlements and churches carved from formidable cliff-faces. A famous one (Vardzia in Georgia, shown at the end of this report) housed some thousands of people – at a dizzying height above a lush valley, where today a tourist village thrives.

These are poor countries, particularly Armenia, sometimes called the Land of Stones. But where it is possible the people of these countries grow nut trees and fruit - notably grapes and pomegranates, and apricots (*prunus armenicus*), but also water melons (seen growing pretty wild in urban home gardens, and the main fruit seen on our hotel buffets). In Turkey they grow tea too, and send it for processing to one of the many factories. We even saw lone houses high on forested mountainsides with a precipitous field of little tea bushes. But most noticeable everywhere were the bee hives. Homes had them, monasteries had them, we even saw a row of beehives along a roadside. Their foraging field was obvious: wild flowering plants prospered everywhere if anything would grow, and were left to do so, even (as at LucyTour, a nature-lovers’ resort in the mountainous south of Armenia) where a little pathside strip of cultivated flowers announced that this was garden, or a grape-laden bower invited guests to sit at a shaded table. LucyTour took self-sustaining seriously: their pond was full of fish, the fowlyard full of chooks, ducks, and a peacock or two. I don’t remember their vege garden, but I’m sure they had one.

There was always, everywhere, the dimension of history stretching from ancient times. In the LucyTour region archaeologists have found a 5,500-year-old leather shoe in a cave, and also the residue of ancient wine-making – crushed grapes and grapeseeds. It was awe-inspiring to see the conditions people had tackled and managed to live within, even in modern times. Infrastructure or its lack was instructive to see too. In some districts, the yards of villagers were piled with stacks of bricks drying in the sun for fuel – bricks of animal manure. In more closely settled districts of Armenia, there were narrow pipes along



the roads, raised pipes that passed overhead of the gateways into people's properties. These deliver the gas and perhaps electricity, in a country where earthquakes can wreck laid infrastructure. But what accounted for the family of cows wandering across a Turkish town's busy arterial road to browse the greenery in a median strip, I couldn't guess. Illustrating how there will always be people who can make money in a poor economy, a scrap-metal merchant made millions, then built an incredible kitsch mansion and gated garden – public-spiritedly for the enjoyment of others too, together with a restaurant in town.

Yerevan, administrative and cultural capital of Armenia, is a sophisticated modern city, where the centre is thronged with people in the summer evenings, even on a weeknight. A capital in ages past, it was built up from an insignificant town in the 1930s under the Soviets, planned with a square of splendid pink stone buildings by Tamanian, an Armenian architect living in Moscow. It was worthwhile for a Soviet city to reach a population of a million, as it qualified for a metro, and Yerevan did. A little larger now, its numbers are 35% of the population of Armenia – that is, the much shrunken Armenia that is left since the treaty of 1921 gave Turkey a huge swathe of the land that geographers call the Armenian Plateau. The two peaks of Mt Ararat, an icon for Armenia, overlook Yerevan at some distance, but stand in Turkey.

I did come home with one trivial fact you may find useful, one interesting impression, and one shocker.

The trivial useful fact: At the tea factory we visited we were told they have three grades of tea: the first picking in May; the second picking in about August... and a third grade that they pack into teabags.

Interesting impression:

How many countries, cities, villages too, are finding ways to make a living by providing holiday and tourist experiences for their countrymen and other people – in effect, worldwide we are all doing it for each other, or rather, for those of each other who can afford it. But day and weekend outings are also part of the refresher experience, and when we stopped to enjoy the natural and manmade pleasures, along with a coffee, at roadside amenities high in rugged country, many of the other patrons were clearly regional people. At two such spots, when our Turkish leaders brought out their bagpipe and drum and we started dancing on the pavement, others quickly joined in. Nearing dusk on a Sunday, as our buses drew into a little Turkish resort village, Ayder up in the Pontic Mountains – crammed with small hotels, and a little main street lined with souvenir shops and cafes – drizzling rain set in. We had passed a nearby picnic park where several families were out, some at tables under umbrellas, some not. Their children kept playing, the adults stayed where they were. A tough people, not about to let a bit of rain spoil their pleasure. The small plateau site of Ayder, historically used by nomadic tribes to herd their animals in summer, nowadays serves almost exclusively as a resort. Nobody lives there in the winter.

The shocking impression was to do with land resources and use. My introduction to this part of the world was flying from Dubai to Tblisi in Georgia, in the north of the Caucasus. Nearly all the three and a half hours of it was over desert, including vast expanses of mountainous terrain. Yes, one knows of that region, and knows too that other huge areas of

the planet are uninhabitable, or inhabited but bitterly inhospitable. But it is sobering to see it and then to compare the limited sizes of the richly endowed areas of the world that we take for granted as normality – even Europe is broken by extensive mountain ranges. Then exploring on the ground as we did, one sees how sought-after and precious this forbidding land has been, how its potentials have been seen and developed, its often meagre rewards valued and celebrated, in worship, music, and dance. By contrast, one is appalled to realize the profligate treatment, present as well as past, we give our land. We continue to allow the best food-producing land around our city to be lost to industry and housing – for more people needing food. Our priority is to live in our familiar low-rise places in the sun. Our decision-makers still encourage Canterbury land sustainably suited to arable crops to be converted to destructive dairying. Coming home from the big world, one feels the responsibility, and not just to our own children’s future but to humanity and the planet. It is even more alarming to realize that much of the Middle East land so barren today was not always so. It was the cradle of civilization, and the Garden of Eden was mythical but not a fiction. There, and elsewhere repeatedly throughout history it has been man’s benighted use of the land, its water and soil, especially irrigation, that has had catastrophic consequences.

You may like references for two vision-changing books:

Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed, by Jared Diamond.

Dirt: The Erosion of Civilization, by David Montgomery. The city libraries have one copy.

You can get many glimpses of what we did and saw on our tour in a collection of photos taken by group members. Here is the link:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/ryd1kixpjgdokq9AABV8psV1q7GPomBpdwHnu0Sa?dl=0>

– *Rae Storey*



Tineke and Maurits van Geel, who organize these tours for dancers to Armenia and neighbouring countries. It is hoped they will visit New Zealand in 2020, perhaps teaching a repertoire of Roma (Gypsy) dances that Maurits has collected and they are workshopping around the folkdance world.

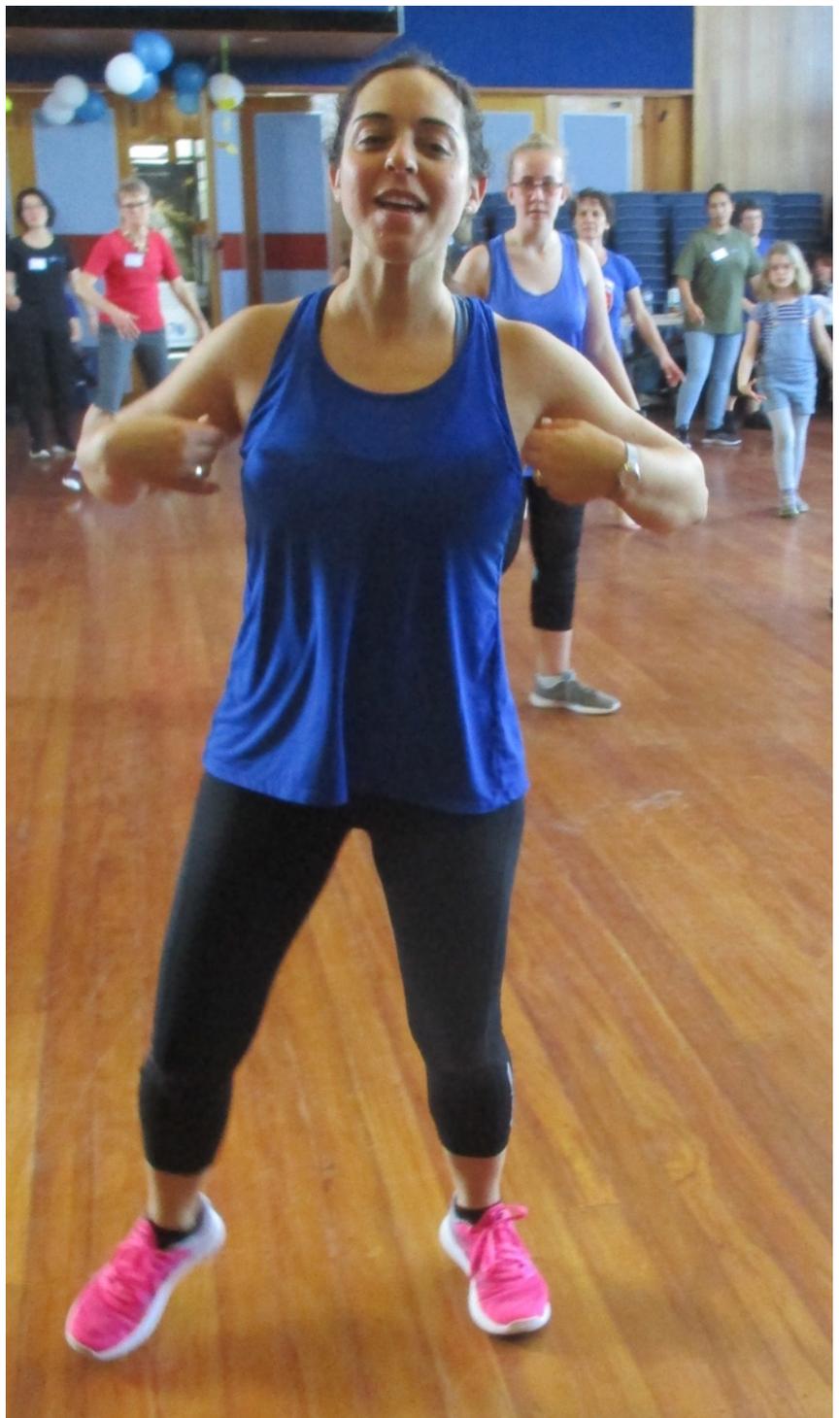


'Twas the month after Christmas

"'twas the month after Christmas, and all through the house
Nothing would fit me, not even a blouse
The cookies I'd nibbled, the chocolate I'd tasted,
At the holiday parties had gone to my waist.
When I got on the scales there arose such a number,
When I walked to the store
(less a walk than a lumber)
I'd remember the marvellous meals I'd prepared:
The gravies and sauces and beef nicely prepared,
The wine and the rumballs, the bread and the cheese
And the way I'd never said, "no thank you, please"
As I dressed myself in my husband's old shirt
And prepared once again to do battle with dirt...
I said to myself, as I only can,
"you can't spend a winter, disguised as a man"
So away with the last of the sour cream dip,
Get rid of the fruit cake, every cracker and chip,
Every last bit of food that I like must be banished,
"Til all the additional ounces have vanished.
I won't have a cookie, not even a lick.
I'll want only to chew on a long celery stick.
I won't have hot biscuits, or corn bread, or pie.
I'll munch on a carrot and quietly cry.
I'm hungry, I'm lonesome, and life is a bore...
But isn't that what January is for?
Unable to giggle, no longer a riot.
Happy New Year to all, and to all a good diet!

– Anon., found by Jane Luscombe in an old Age Concern magazine

Pamela Schwartz revising an amusing dance called “Toy” at the national Israeli dance camp, Machol Pacifica, held in Whanganui at Labour Weekend.



Finding the Folklore Festivals in Europe

This year the Folklore Festival Association has organized 14 festivals across different cities through Europe.

Visit the official web page www.folklorefestival.com for more information about the festivals planned for 2019 and follow the FFA on social media Facebook and Instagram for more interesting contents



Dancing revelry in wall tapestries seen by Beth in English stately homes owned by the National Trust:

Left: At Lanhydrock, Cornwall.

Below: At Blickling Hall, Norfolk. 18th century Flemish tapestry, 'Return from the Harvest'.



For When You Are Visiting Other Cities

International folk dance (IFD) and specialist groups throughout the country are listed on the Folk Dance NZ website: www.folkdance.nz

Hamilton:

- DanceFolkus (Fiona Murdoch), International. Thurs.7.30, St Stephen's, 2 Mahoe St. Themed blocks culminating in parties. 07-856-8324, dancefolkus@slingshot.co.nz Google DanceFolkus. Facebook: Dance Folkus. Detailed schedule can be emailed.
- Israeli : Woodturners' Hall, Storey Ave., Te Rapa, Mondays 7.30pm.
Contact: Raymond Matson, 07-855-7829

Tauranga: Athena, Greek. Gaby Johnston, 07 5433-229, gabemail2@gmail.com

Hawkes Bay:

- With Glenys Kelly: Thurs. 10am-12noon. Clive Community Hall.
06-8787-272, thenzkellys@hotmail.com
- With Raechel Bennett: In recess for the present.
Raechel 06 8778367 <s.raechel.bennett@gmail.com>.

Whangarei:

International Folk Dancing: In recess for 2018.

Contact: Elizabeth 09 4360819 or 0211197695 <staats60@gmail.com>

Paihia: Group is in recess. Contact is June Jacobson <junejacobson@xtra.co.nz>

Israeli Groups: In 13 New Zealand centres. See www.macholpacific.org.nz

Contribution deadline for February issue of Roundabout: Monday 4th February.

TEXT: Please email if possible (NOT in an Attachment).

Otherwise on white A4 paper, in 14 pt Times New Roman, with side margins at least 1.9cm, and 2.2 cm at top and bottom.

Any other MS needs to be in earlier to give time for transcribing.

PHOTOS: Digital please – at FULL RESOLUTION.

Email them or the URL for them; or send them on flashdrive or by WeTransfer.

Hard copy photos only if it's unavoidable.

PHOTO CREDITS: *Thanks to Beth Harris for the photos taken in England.
Rae Storey took all the others except for the Lady in the Van.*

Dancing Every Week:

		TIME	CONTACT
MONDAY	International Folkdance	9.30-12 noon	Rae Storey, 524-9504
and FRIDAY	NB In Rae's loft, 24a Dell Ave, Remuera		raestorey36@gmail.com
MONDAY	Korean dancing for all	10.30-12 noon	Leah Park
	Manutewhau Community Hub		027-962-8128
	74 B Oreil Ave, West Harbour		pokcarrya@naver.com
TUESDAY	Israeli: beginners	7-8:30, venue as Wed.	marta.cullen@gmail.com
WEDNESDAY	South American folkdance	6.15pm	Ana Maria de Vos, 638-6771
	Holland House, 123 Rockfield Rd, Penrose		Txt 021-156-8020
			anamaria.devossanchez@gmail.com
WEDNESDAY	Israeli Dancing, Maayan Group	7-9pm	Jenni Gottschalk, 480-4330
	Beth Shalom, 180 Manukau Rd, Epsom		jennygo@complus.co.nz
THURSDAY	City of Auckland Morris Dancers	7:30pm	Andy Smith
	St Lukes Hall, 704 New North Rd, St Lukes		361-2133
	All welcome, dancers & musicians		Details on aucklandmorris.org.nz
FRIDAY	IFD incl. Chinese & Taiwanese	1.30-4pm	Julia Wei 537-4059
	St John Ambulance Hall,		jna_nz@yahoo.com
	590 Pakuranga Rd, Highland Park		

Dancing Every Month:

Irish Set Dancing

First 2 **THURS.** Rocky Nook Bowling Club 8 - 10pm Fred Carr, 963-8145
Fowlds Park, Mt Albert fred.carr@vodafone.co.nz

English Folkdancing

Second **FRIDAY** St John the Baptist Hall 7.30-10pm Beth Harris, 445-9386
47 Church St, Northcote bethharris51@hotmail.com; and Karen

Early Dance

Fourth **FRIDAY** St John the Baptist Hall 7.30-10pm Karen Vernon
47 Church St, Northcote karen@plantagenet.co.nz; and Beth

Hillsborough Ceilidh

Last **FRIDAY** St Davids in the Field 7.30pm Anne-Marie Forsyth
202 Hillsboro Rd, Mt Roskill learnScotsfiddle@gmail.com

Contra Dancing

Second **SAT.** St Lukes Church Hall 7-10.30pm Lenny Bloksberg
Cnr St Lukes/New Nth Rd lenny@bloksberg-it.co.nz 266-2002

SAT. a.m. *International*: Monthly +. Gwen Mann, 575-1985, gwenmann@xtra.co.nz