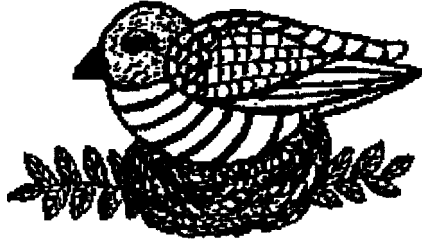


CELEBRATE THE **KUCKUCKSNEST'S** 25TH BIRTHDAY YEAR
WITH THE RSCDS CENTRAL GERMANY BRANCH

DANCING AND EXCURSIONS AT THE **KUCKUCKSNEST**
SCHLÜCHTERN-VOLLMERZ, GERMANY

MONDAY 20TH AUGUST TO SUNDAY 26TH AUGUST 2012



After the popular success of two similar, past events, RSCDS Central Germany Branch invites dancers to celebrate the 25th Birthday year of the Kuckucksnest. Chairwoman Carola Fischer at the Kuckucksnest, and Jim Cook of RSCDS London Branch, are collaborating to offer a week's holiday at the renowned Kuckucksnest, encompassing dancing and local culture.

Dancers should have a good knowledge of basic steps and formations as it is hoped that our teachers, Avril and David Quarrie will stretch us to the full. No doubt "Quarries' Jig" will be danced during the week! Our musicians will be Ken Martlew (Keyboard) and Barbara Manning (Violin). Also, any musicians amongst the participants are welcome to bring their instruments and join Ken and Barbara for part of the evenings as "guest musicians".

The Kuckucksnest is situated in the village of Vollmerz near Schlüchtern, 50 miles (80 kms) north east of Frankfurt (Main) in the Spessart area of Germany. The old village pub has been converted into a venue with the dance studio, accommodation and dining room all under one roof. Further accommodation, including six rooms with showers/WCs, is available in a nearby second house.

The nearest airport is Frankfurt (Main). Further afield, Frankfurt (Hahn) airport is used by certain cut-price airlines. Rail connections are possible from all parts of Europe including London to nearby Schlüchtern station.

More background information is available on the Kuckucksnest website www.kuckucksnest.com. Articles have also appeared in issues 235 and 242 of RSCDS London Branch's periodical "The Reel". These can be accessed from the home page of the London Branch website www.rscdslondon.org.uk.

The package includes two full day trips by public transport to Fulda (with its baroque palaces, towers, cathedral and churches) and Gelnhausen (enclosed by its fortifications, with its church and palace ruins) with restaurant lunches. These will alternate with three mornings of classes followed by optional afternoon local walks and outings to possibly Ramholz and Burg Brandenstein plus a visit by car to a performance at the unique Marionette Theatre in historic Steinau (where the Brothers Grimm grew up). There will be social dancing each evening.

Of course, there is no obligation to join in these trips if you prefer to simply relax in the garden. However, for those excursions involving pre-booked group arrangements, refunds may not be possible if you opt out.

The week starts with afternoon tea from 16.00, or dinner at 19.00 for late arrivals, on Monday 20th August 2012. To facilitate preparation of the house, arrival should ideally not be before 15.30. Thus those arriving by public transport should aim to arrive at Schlüchtern railway station, at the earliest,

for the connecting bus at 15.35 * to nearby Vollmerz. Connecting trains arrive from both the Fulda and Frankfurt directions.

The week ends after a late breakfast on Sunday 26th August. For those departing by public transport, special transport (at small extra cost) will be arranged to Schlüchtern station for train departures circa 11.30 in both the Fulda and Frankfurt directions. At Frankfurt (Main) a connection is available to the principal Airport arriving at 12.57 * and to London St Pancras arriving at 20.03 *.

Numbers of dancers are limited to 32 places, but extra non-dancing guests are also welcome. So why not get a little group together? Accommodation is in simply furnished, but cosy, rooms with up to three beds. The meals are wholesome and mainly vegetarian. We also hope to enhance the numbers at our evening dances with local dancers.

The package costs are €398 per person in 3 bedded rooms, €438 per person in twin bedded rooms. Twin rooms may be booked as singles for €488 per person. For non-dancers, please deduct €75 per person from the above rates. These prices cover everything from afternoon tea on Monday 20th August until breakfast on Sunday 26th August EXCEPT for lunch drinks and coffees during the full day excursions, and bottled drinks at the Kuckucksnest. Participants will be responsible for their own travel costs to/from the Kuckucksnest.

OPTIONAL EXTRA DAY: If you wish to visit Frankfurt on your way to the Kuckucksnest, details of a good value hotel in Frankfurt can be provided for the evening of Sunday 19th August. Then, on the Monday morning, the city can be optionally visited with Jim Cook. After lunch, Jim will escort any participants by the 14.26 * train from Frankfurt (Main) Hbf to Schlüchtern and the aforesaid connecting bus at 15.35 *.

Planning a year in advance, perhaps certain aspects may change. However we trust that everything will be as detailed here.

To register interest, please complete and return the "attached" application form preferably by email. But if you use the post, please enclose a STAMPED self addressed envelope in the UK, or INTERNATIONAL POSTAGE REPLY COUPON. If applying on behalf of a group, then please complete one copy per person.

It will be "first come first served" for the best appointed rooms as a limited number of rooms have ensuite showers/WC whilst other rooms share such facilities.

If room is available at the time of your application, it will be provisionally reserved and you will be invited to either send £185 deposit to Jim Cook in the UK (who will convert it to € at the prevailing rate), or transfer €200 directly to Carola's German Bank Account, as confirmation during the following three weeks. The outstanding dues will be payable in Euros upon arrival at the Kuckucksnest.

Deposits less 20% will be refunded if you cancel before 20/5/12. Thereafter, refunds will only be available if your place can be filled. But please advise if you will incur heavy bank charges sending your deposit from your country.

Details of the evening dance programmes will be despatched to you, preferably by email, well in advance.

So do celebrate with the Central Germany Branch and come and sample the homely charm and friendliness of the Kuckucksnest.

NB. * All the above transport times will be confirmed in 2012.