

Society for International Folk Dancing

*SIFD
NEWS*

*MARCH
2018*

mail@SIFD.org

Reg. Charity No.284509



Editor: Janet Douglas, Oak Cottage, 92 Rose Green Road, Bognor Regis, West
Sussex PO21 3EQ. Tel: 01243 265010 *sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk*

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

Sadly, Irene Keywood has died, tributes to her begin on page 6, a photo of her in Macedonian costume is on the front cover. Roy Clarke sent the publicity leaflet from the 1975 Smotra at Zagreb, (pages 14-15) which gave Irene and other members of Zivko Firfov much pleasure and memories. Roy's memories of Balkan Parties of those days are the vitality of the dancing and the music of the group Blowzabella.

Maggie Kaye, Debbie Nicol and Caroline Thomas all offered to use their German expertise for an Agattanz translation, but they all agreed it was an almost impossibly huge task. Janet Mason advised us initially that even dancing Agattanz could take one hour! A translation would take more time than anybody has got; if it is ever translated into English it would have to be a labour of love. Maggie recognized some figures from a Swedish dance group who were at Sidmouth years ago, and observed that others look more like English sword-dance figures, but without swords.

Share the Agattanz experience! This month you can decipher some of the figures, the first below instead of the usual logo or motif, and so on...

Ed.



Admission Price at Sunday Dances

For the last few years the admission price has been the same for members and non-members. In last month's SIFD News a price differential for members/non-members was announced. However the Committee have reconsidered this and advise that the price differential will be discontinued.

Admission for all will be £10, with effect from the March Dance.

Judith Payling

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Apr. 8: SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** at Primrose Hill Community Centre, 29 Hopkinsons Place, Off Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN. At 6.45pm.
- S.I **Apr. 14-15: BALKANPLUS W/SHOPS WITH MITKO PETROV** Dances from Bulgaria & Beyond. 10.30am - 4.30pm both days. Sat. workshop at Primrose Hill Community Centre Sat. party (7pm) & Sun. workshop at Cecil Sharp House. Workshops: Sat. £30, Sun.£25, Party £10, Weekend deal £55 Discounts for Balkanplus season ticket holders. Tickets: Please send cheque payable to Balkanplus with SAE to: Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG For more information visit www.balkanplus.org.uk Tel: Brian 01992 582717 or Maureen 01473 272256
- S.I **Apr. 14: BALKANPLUS** A party evening with Balkanplus following the first day of a weekend workshop with Mitko Petrov, your MC will be Brian Dowsett and will be held in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. Admission £10
- S.I **Apr. 17: BARLOW INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP** are hosting a evening workshop with MITKO PETROV from 7.30 - 9.30p.m. at St. Ninian's Church Hall. Chorlton, Manchester, M210XJ Admission £5 Details from Mary O'Mahony 0161 881 0955 maryomahony3@yahoo.co.uk
- S.I **Apr. 21-22: VLADICA AND SASHA** teach Serbian folk dances in Sheffield. Sat. day course & evening dance £35; Sun. day course £25; Weekend package £50. For details & booking form please send s.a.e. to Cathy Meunier, 23, Church Street, Keswick, Cumbria CA12 4DX or email cathy_meunier@hotmail.com. Website: www.balkanfolkdance.org.
- S.I **Apr. 27-30: GREAT ALNE LONG WEEKEND** (Friday afternoon to Monday afternoon) (near Alcester, Warwickshire) International Folk Dancing with a special guest teacher from the Netherlands. Other varied dancing, music, handbells, Maypole dancing, part singing, walking and cycling. For further information see website: www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley 0121 689 1802 or André Hobro 0121 777 3722.

- S.I **Apr. 28: WOODVALE 50TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE** 2 - 5:30pm
 Tickets £8 at Platt Memorial Hall, Platinum Way, St Mary's Platt,
 Sevenoaks TN15 8FH. Dancing to live music & demo from Balaton.
 Come in costume if you can. Please bring your own drinks & glasses,
 tea/coffee will be provided (and some light refreshments in the interval).
 Please let us know if you are coming. (*mrdavid.mckie@btinternet.com*)
- S.I **May 4 - May 7: SIFD INT. FOLK DANCING WEEKEND** at
 Halsway Manor, Somerset with Janet Woolbar & Stella Wentworth +
 guided walks. Robin & Judy Morris 01564773482 - 07966785172
robinnimbo@aol.com or <http://sifd.org/events/sifdevents.php>
- S.I **May 4 - May 7: EASTBOURNE INT. FOLKDANCE FESTIVAL**
 01823 401271 www.eiff.org.uk
- S.I **May 12: BALKANPLUS MC:** Bob Robinson, held in Trefusis, Cecil
 Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. £6
- Jun.9: BALKAN DANCE DAY WITH CATHY MEUNIER** 10.30-
 4-30 at Unstone Community Centre, 20 Crow Lane, Unstone, Derbys.
 S18 4AL.tel Gill *ddu3ainternationaldancing@gmail.com* or 01246 410020
- S.I **Jun.9: BALKANPLUS MC:** Fiona Howarth, held in Trefusis, Cecil
 Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm. £6.
- S.I **Jul. 21-22: BALKANPLUS W/SHOPS WITH LEE OTTERHOLT**
 Dances from the Balkans & Beyond at Cecil Sharp House. Workshops:
 10.30am - 4.30pm Sat. Party: 7 - 10.30pm Workshops: Sat. £40 (£30)
 Sun. £30 (£20), Party £10 W/e deal: £70 (£50) Early bird prices (in
 brackets) until end of May Further discounts for Balkanplus season
 ticket holders. Tickets: Please send cheque payable to Balkanplus with
 SAE to: Maureen Felton, 28 Henslow Road, Ipswich IP4 5EG For
 more information visit www.balkanplus.org.uk Tel. Brian 01992 582717
 or Maureen 01473 272256
- S.I **Sep.8: SIFD AGM, WORKSHOP & DANCE** at Pulborough Village
 Hall, West Sussex RH20 2BP. Details to follow



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.*

Irene Keywood

I am sure that those SIFD members, who haven't already heard, will be saddened to know of the death of Irene Keywood. She died suddenly a few weeks ago after suffering several years of failing health.

Irene was a kind, gentle person to whom dancing was very important. As a young woman she would go dancing nearly every night of the week with her best friend Kath French to the various SIFD classes and week-ends would either be spent rambling or more dancing!! She was a very keen Balkan dancer and was a loyal member of the Zivko Firfov group where I met her. She was never one to be in the "spotlight" but worked hard behind the scenes, especially when it came to organising the old Christmas party, something which caused her many a sleepless night if the tickets weren't sold out by August!!

In more recent times, despite advancing age and frailty, she would make the journey into London to join in with my group and even dance a few steps. She thoroughly enjoyed herself and we enjoyed her company. We shall miss her very much.

Frank Dowling

≈

Those members who knew Irene Keywood will be very sorry to hear that she died last month.

Irene has not danced for a while now but she loved her dancing and was a longstanding and loyal member of the SIFD. She was a keen member of the Zivko Firfov group for many years and enjoyed dancing in their demonstration team and performances and visiting the former Yugoslavia with the group to collect dances, music and costumes. She was also very much part of the general international dance scene and attended the many day courses and weekends away that the Society organised.

So, we have lost another of our old friends and fellow dancers who were part of the core of the SIFD. We will remember her with affection.

Lily Avery

≈≈

Irene loved travel besides visiting art galleries and museums but dance played a major part in her life. She was a loyal member of the Zivko Firfov Group under Ken Ward and appeared in many demos and performances. She was the contact to obtain tickets for the prestigious Balkan dance parties held in London early in December when the hall was filled to capacity.

Three of us from Woodvale joined Ken's visit to Yugoslavia in 1978 when Zivko Firfov performed at the Bitola festival. Irene and Kath French kindly took me in hand and around, helping me to find items for a Macedonian costume at the commission shops.

Irene also organised Balkan weekends at Dunford over August Bank Holiday weekends in the 70s and 80s. I remember her, Kath and Jean Marshall taking turns to lead dances on the lawns. On Saturday evenings people appeared in gorgeous costumes to dance. Small groups of friends met for self-catering breaks in the West Country to walk, sightsee and dance - all organised by Irene.

She was not only a Balkan dancer but much enjoyed general international Irene, Kath and Jean (affectionately known as the 'three graces') were invariably present at SIFD weekends - organised by Jack Richardson and Roy Clarke. Irene was very upset when Kath died in 2003 as they had been friends for many years, starting out at the Central London YHA group before joining Margery Latham's class and the Swedish group.

In poor health in recent years she nevertheless continued to travel until 2016. Although no longer able to dance she retained a lively interest in the dance world and always liked to hear how our Bexhill group was getting on. She kept in touch with numerous dance friends (her 'phone seemed to be permanently engaged) but I will miss the calls, usually on a Sunday, with a distinctive voice enquiring "Are you alright to talk?"

Heather Edwards

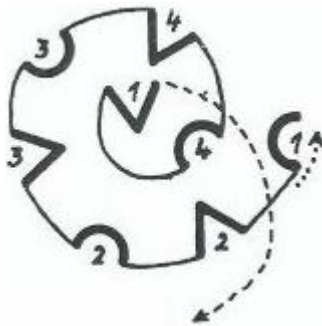


It was 1954 when I first met Irene and Cath at a Sunday dance in Cecil Sharp House. We remained good friends over the years and more recently took to phoning each other on a regular basis.



Our main topic of conversation was S.I.F.D. and all things connected! When Irene came to stay she would come to a P.I.F.D. class and give us valuable guidance on style, timing etc. (it's only too easy to get into bad habits when you are out on a limb as we are down here.) Irene came down to Newport in 1974 when I launched that group and again when I moved to Pembrokeshire to launch that group as well as various other occasions. We will miss you Irene.

Sue Clark



Balkanplus

The March Balkanplus will be held on the 10th March in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, Camden NW1 7AY, starting at 7.00pm and ends 10.00pm. MCs will be The Oxford Group - they will be very pleased if you would like to wear a costume for the evening.

Admission £6.

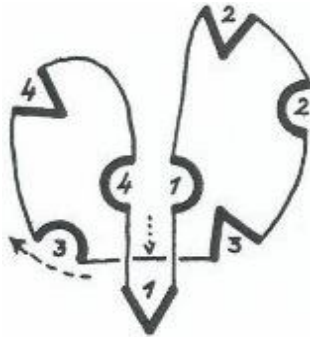
Maureen Felton

SIFD March Dance

The next dance with live music from the SIFD Band at Primrose Hill Community Centre, Hopkinson's Place, Fitzroy Road, London NW1 8TN, will be on Sunday 4th March.

The February dance was a great success with more than 20 dancers and 5 musicians in the band. The March dance MC will be Anne Leach so an enjoyable evening is guaranteed! Please come along and join us for an evening of fantastic fun friendly folk dancing. Time will be 6.45pm-9.30pm (hall available from 6.30pm). See you there.

Brenda Steventon



Sunday Dances dates for 2018

Sunday March 4th and Sunday April 8th were announced last month. Dances for the rest of 2018 will be held (at Primrose Hill Community Centre, in the upper hall) on the following Sundays:

13th May

3rd June

1st July

No dance in August

2nd September

7th October

4th November

2nd December

Snaarmaarwaar at Sheffield Eurosession,

Sun 14 January.

Overall the evening lingers in my memory as a rich rippling tapestry of full-bodied chords overlaid with butterscotch finger-picking, and a heart-warming blend of the gentle synchrony of experienced dancers, as well as opportunities to welcome less familiar faces.

Snaarmaarwaar are a Belgian band accomplished and well-grounded in traditional balfolk. However, their music was both traditional and eclectic. The band paid homage to a wide variety of influences, slipping in excerpts of heavy metal, pop, and references to English and Celtic traditions with extraordinary deftness. They have a good reputation, and this probably was a deciding factor in pulling in experienced dancers and musicians from further afield i.e. beyond Sheffield, although hopefully our publicity also helped!

I hadn't been involved in much of the pre-gig organising, from finding venues to negotiating prices, but on the day, there was the familiar excitement of transforming the hall with hangings and lighting, welcoming participants as they trickled in for the workshops. All went well, with reports of 'lush' and 'marvellous' from the music workshop, and 'lovely' and 'so helpful' from Andrew Swaine's bal basics dance workshop, before we took a break for food, sound checks and the main bal.

My favourite moment came during a Breton dance, when a line of dancers was mesmerically snaking around the room in traditional minimalist fashion. Meanwhile a well-coordinated counter-movement manifested as a more energetic bunch of dancers chose to interpret the music in a more flamboyant dance. Was this parody, or 'just doing their own thing'? I didn't ask, and I couldn't possibly say, but I relished this demonstration that we've created an environment in which all are welcome to be creative or create new traditions as long as they don't interfere with others' enjoyment. This fits well in a world of non-binary genders and roles; all are welcome at Eurosession, providing they can tolerate others' choices, boundaries, and perspectives. In the dance world, as in life, the opportunity to witness other perspectives provides a great chance to illuminate and reflect on one's own skills and choices.

Ultimately it was a well-rounded evening of warm enjoyment, marrying up our twin aims of showcasing great talent from countries with a balfolk tradition, and bringing more people into the balfolk dance community in the UK. In a world of political uncertainty, and with a little help from SIFD, we hope to maintain the cultural ties that have so strongly enriched our lives so far, and share our experience of developing cross-cultural warmth through the shared love of music and dance.

Susannah Diamond

Eurosession committee member



Polka / Schottische

In the February News Ruth Coton questions the lack of follow-up to the Polka / Schottische debate, after her thoughts in the December News. I think she covered it pretty well but I'll try to add a bit more.

I don't know why we in English use a German form of the name "schottische". Some other languages use different spellings of the same name, likewise attributing it to Scotland, even though the dance and tune form that really is specifically Scottish is the strathspey, which is similar but not the same. In Norway they mostly call it "reinlender" or "ringlender".

Besides a polka being faster, the fourth movement after L-R-L or R-L-R is likely to be a hop and may come later than an even fourth beat, just before the "One", whereas the fourth movement in a schottische is likely to be a lift without leaving the floor and to come on the fourth beat. Then to add to the pot there are the "Baltic" polka step which can move forwards without turning, and the Swedish "lybeckare", which is like a slow schottische with more forward movement.

Richard Mellish

Costumes & Customs Exhibition in St. Helen's Church, Grindleford.

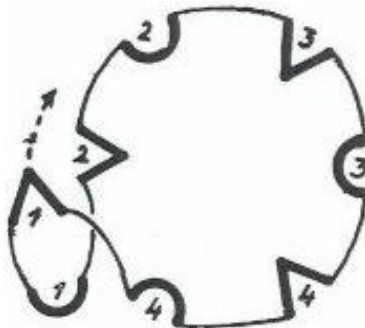
The exhibition of my costumes raised the wonderful sum of £1000 for the UNICEF Fund for refugee children.

It was staged in the Church, the idea having come from our organist, Professor Peter Tregenza, and was supported by members of the Parish, and my fantastic Group, The Derbyshire Dancers, which I established in 1967, 50 years ago. They worked hard all weekend and modelled some of the costumes. One of our members, Mrs. Sheila Wingrove, ran the folk shop, which stocked donated items and things which she herself had made, as well as costume pieces kindly donated by SIFD members. This raised about half the total.

The last time I showed my costumes for charity, the emphasis was on the music and dances of the region from which the costumes had come, but this time the emphasis was on the craft skills involved in their making. A friend from Church sat spinning wool from a fleece all weekend and another friend showed examples of weaving and dyeing, with samples brought back from one of our group trips to Romania. An embroiderer made examples of the stitches used in the costumes, and the Community Shop in the church vestry served baklava and other traditional recipes.

I was very grateful to SIFD members who attended from afar, and I hope that they enjoyed it and learned a lot about the customs as well as enjoying the beautiful garments and pictures on show.

Marina Wolstenholme.

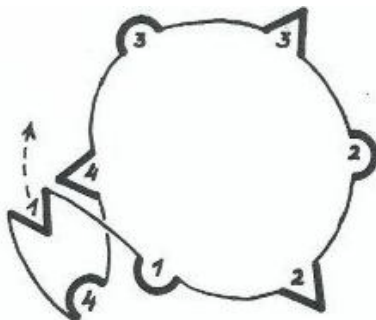


Woodvale I.F.D.G. 50th Anniversary Dance

We have heard second and third hand reports of people hoping to come to our Anniversary Dance on Saturday 28th April, but so far only a couple of people have actually contacted me directly to say that they are hoping to come.

Could you please let me know (mrdavid.mckie@btinternet.com) by Sunday March 18th if you are hoping to come as this will help with setting up the hall and for catering. Full details are on the Diary page. If you do not have email, please ring David on 01732 846065.

David Mckie



Enjoy a May Bank Holiday dancing weekend at Halsway Manor.

We have an annual SIFD dancing weekend at Halsway Manor in Somerset from Friday 4th May to Monday 7th May. 2018 and with the option of an extra night on Monday. It is not too late to book!

There is dancing every evening led by Janet Woolbar and with Stella Wentworth and other members providing live music. There are walk throughs and calling to suit all. Do take this opportunity to widen your dancing experience.

Walks are arranged during the day in the wonderful Quantock Hills or along the coast. Otherwise there is plenty to see and visit locally. In the grounds there is also a chance to try out Maypole dancing and there is even a croquet lawn!

I am sure that you will have an enjoyable experience at Halsway Manor. Just come along and see ! The contact is Robin Morris on 07966 785172 or email him at robinnimbo@aol.com.

Ian Green

10th international folklore review

X revue internationale du folklore

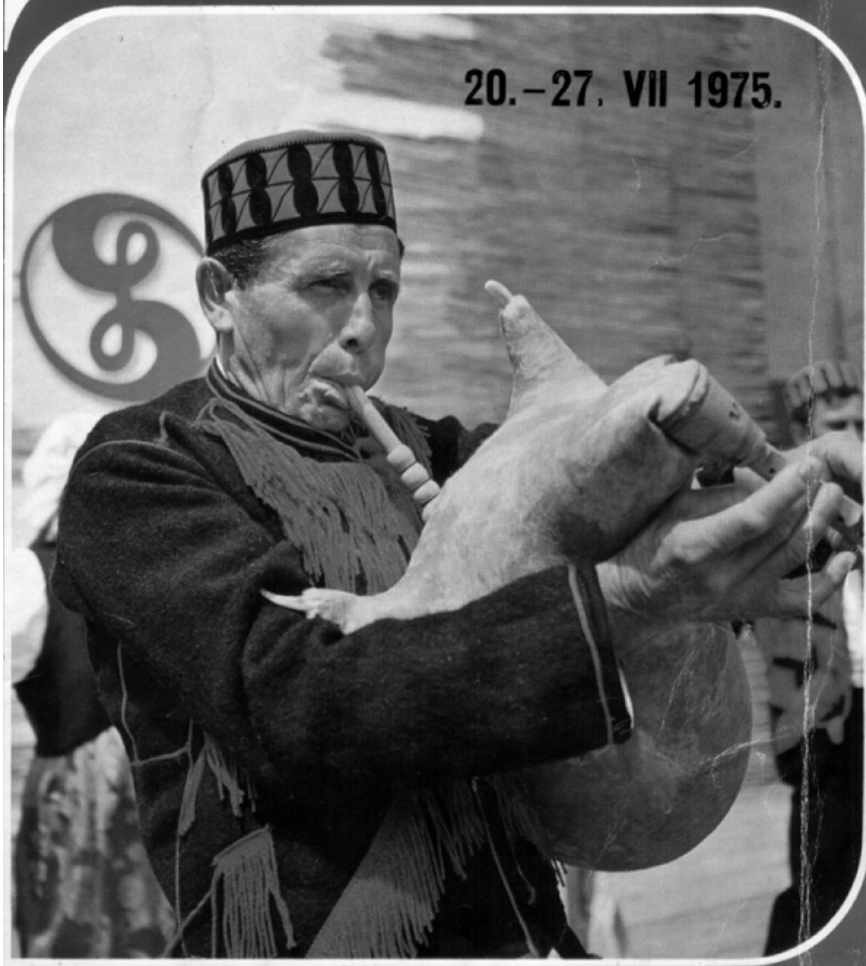
10. internationale Folkloreschau

X rassegna internazionale del folclore

ZAGREB

X međunarodna smotra folklor

20. – 27. VII 1975.



The piper has a dark brown coat with red fringe, the hat is black and red.

Ed.



Clockwise from top left: Galičnik - Makedonija.
 Vrlika - Hrvatska
 Vrlika - Hrvatska
 Glavice, Sinj - Hrvatska
 red is the predominate colour.

Ed.

Krzyzok (see last month)

Krzyzok means scissors and it comes from the Sacz region. It was taught at an SIFD day course at Cecil Sharp House in the Kennedy Hall, in 1977 by Radek Kowalczyk. It is danced in square sets of 4 couples. The first part of the dance, involving scissor movements, is fairly slow and stately but the second part, with similar scissor floor pattern, is very fast. The Rainmakers have occasionally danced it on a party night (instructions below).

Jill Bransby

Formation: Square set with 4 couples, set on the diagonal. (Couple 2 on right of head couple (1), couple 3 opposite couple number 1 and couple 4 opposite couple 2.)

Source: Radek Kowalczyk, London Polish Course, 1977

A Music.

Part 1. Head couples (1 & 3) walk towards each other with 3 steps and a bow, while the side couples (2 & 4) turn, holding 2 hands, in a circle taking 4 steps and travelling clockwise. As head couples come out the side couples walk into the middle and bow. The heads walk around in a circle before they go into the middle again. This is the scissor movement, the dance continues until the side couples are left in the middle at the end of the A music. The 'heads', have been into the middle three times, but the 'sides' have not returned to place.

B Music.

Part 2. The 'sides' gallop out back to place with four slip steps, 'heads' slip round in place for 4 slips, clockwise, then cross over with the third couple who make an arch. 'Sides' slip round, as described above, and then immediately cross over with the opposite couple, the 4s making the arch. This scissor movement continues until the end of the B music. All should have changed places twice. Ballroom hold is suggested for the cross over, if you are not making the arch, and a fairly close elbow/two hand hold for the turn. Alternate the arches.

Dance repeats with the side couples starting the movement inwards (Part 1), while the heads turn on the spot.

Laine Ruus, our Danish authority sends the following on **To Ting**.

Dorothy Sloan, Toronto.

To ting is likely a relatively recent addition to the Danish folkdance flora. The waltz component in part A would tend to indicate an origin no earlier than the early 1800s, when the waltz came to Denmark. On the other hand, the basic structure of parts A and B in different rhythms can be argued to have roots back to the 1300s, as can the structure within parts A and B, in which the first 4 bars (respectively a promenade, ie tyroler steps in waltz or walk/hopsa tempo) followed by 4 bars of turning couple dance, respectively waltz and pivot steps.

To ting was not present in early editions of the FFF brochures of published Danish folk dances.. By the 5th edition of brochure II (1980), a description of To ting was included, and had earlier also been included in the 2nd (1938) and later editions of Gamle Himmerlands-danse. The earliest English language description of To ting that I have been able to locate is a description for the Folk Dance Federation of California, from the syllabus of their 1959 folk dance workshop.

While the dance descriptions from the various localities in which To ting was collected agree in the essentials, there are local variations in the tunes, ie there is no one piece of music for To ting. Three variations are available on the web at:

- from western Jutland: <http://spillefolk.dk/nodesamling/pdf/tu-totingvesteregnen.pdf>

- from Himmerland: <http://spillefolk.dk/nodesamling/pdf/xx-2tinghimmerland.pdf>

- from Fur: <http://spillefolk.dk/nodesamling/pdf/xx-toting.pdf>

These have the following rhythms:

part A	part B		
western Jutland	3/4	6/8	
Himmerland	3/4	2/4	
Fur	3/4	6/8	

There are also other variations, eg from Thy, Læsø, etc.

Laine Ruus Librarian emeritus, University of Toronto
e-mail: laine.ruus@utoronto.ca

To Ting

Denmark

Musical notation for 'To Ting' in G major. The first system (A) is in 3/4 time and contains 9 measures. The second system (B) is in 6/8 time and contains 6 measures. Chords G and D7 are indicated below the notes.

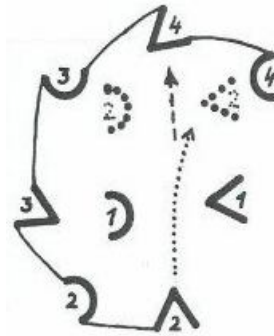
"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"



Thanks to all who have contributed information about the recent dances featured in the News.

The next piece from the **Wilf Horrocks' Collection** will be **Baryant** (pheasant) - from the former Czechoslovakia - does anyone know anything about it?

Let us know if you do.



The last of the **Agattanz** diagrams above - an intriguing dance..... maybe somewhere somebody knows it... and someday there will be a workshop on it...

Ed.

SIFD Committee

- Acting Chairman** Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN *richard@mellish.eu* 0208 863 7807
- Treasurer:** Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood, Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF. *judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk*
- Secretary:** Dalila Heath 18 Calder Avenue, Brookmans Park, Hatfield. AL9 7AQ *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*
tel: 01707 642774

Other Committee Members:

- Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL 0208 340 4683
caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk
- John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics. LE67 8NU
j2ohn@yahoo.com
- Holly Payling 07784 117599 *hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*

WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

- S.I **Saturday 3rd DAY OF DANCE IN CALVER VILLAGE HALL**, Calver, Derbyshire S32 3XR with Lorna Ramsden & Lynda Shaw from Loidis 1030 to 1630. Bring your own lunch, drinks will be supplied. Further details from Janet King (01629 57065) j.king194@btinternet.com or Greg Boyd (07810 181273) gregboyd99@aol.com. £10 for the day
- S.I **Sunday 4th SIFD SUNDAY DANCE** see page 9
- S.I **Sunday 4th GREEK FOLK DANCE WORKSHOP** 11am.-5pm. Aridaia, Central Macedonia dances taught by Dimitris Triandafyllidis at the UPS Club, Institute of Cancer Research, 15 Cotswold Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5NG. £30 (including refreshments). Cheques payable to 'Helios' to Sue King, 83 Upland Road, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5JA
- S.I **Saturday 10th BALKANPLUS** - see page 8
- Fri. 16-Mon. 19: 3 NIGHT INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING** with walking, led by Phil & Brenda Steventon. Dancing morning & evening. 4-5 mile afternoon walks led by an HF walking leader at HF Holidays, Newfield Hall, Malhamdale, North Yorkshire, BD23 4AA. Details ring HF on 0345 470 8558 or Phil & Brenda on 020 8397 9649
- S.I **Friday 16th ROMANIAN WORKSHOP WITH LIZ MELLISH**, hosted by Rainmakers IFDG, 8-10.30pm at St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, SG6 3PQ. £5.00 for the evening. More info from Roger (01438 812766) or Mark (01462 454210).
- S.I **Saturday 24th INT. DANCE WORKSHOP WITH ANNE LEACH** Grangewood M. Church, Grangewood Rd. Wollaton, Notts NG8 2SJ Bring packed lunch (1-2pm) Day: £10. ½ day: £7. Dance 10.30-4.30p.m. www.nutbrookfolkdance.co.uk or 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com



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