

# SIFD NEWS



**November 2021**

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

A photo of Val Cojucar is pictured on the front cover - although it does lack the beaming smile that I most associated with her - I chose it because of the Greek costume. (*photo courtesy of Maggie O'Regan*)

The picture on the back page accompanies Brian Dowsett's article on page 6; and this month - a Polish milkmaid motif.

There is an interesting article on West African dance in the latest issue of the Ontario Folk Dance Association magazine which may be viewed on the OFDA website: <http://ofda.ca/wp/magazine/>

**Ed.**



## **Val Cojucar (Lenny) 1944 -2021**

I'm very sorry to have to inform her many dancing friends that Val passed away, unexpectedly, on 7th October, shortly after being diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Up until that time she was still very active, dancing with Doina East European group and with a local Bulgarian group. Most people remember her for being tall, striking, elegant and an exceptional dancer. She was also modest, unassuming and one of the nicest people I have known.

We met at Cathy Meunier's Sbornka Balkan class in 1986 and very quickly became firm friends. I have fond memories of attending many of Cathy's Balkan courses with her, first at Youth Hostels, later at Holiday Fellowship houses (we usually got lost on the way), and of holidays together. More recently we were at Cathy's Torquay courses. She loved performing, and danced with several performance groups: Philhellenes (Greek), Martisorul (Romanian), Balaton (Hungarian), as well as Doina.

She'll be very much missed by everyone who knew her. She is survived by her three lovely daughters, all, like her, tall and beautiful, and seven grandchildren.

**Maggie O'Regan**

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Dec.10: BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY** 8pm to 10.30pm at Church House. 2 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW Live music by Ygra Contact: Brian Tel. 01992 582717 [bvdowsett@aol.com](mailto:bvdowsett@aol.com)
- Jan. 9: NEW YEAR PARTY** at Calver Village Hall, Hope Valley S32 3XR 11.00 to 17.00. Contact Greg : [gregboyd99@aol.com](mailto:gregboyd99@aol.com)
- S.I **Apr.29-May.2: SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND** dance sessions with Janet Woolbar & guided walks. Robin, 01564 773482 [robinnimbo@aol.com](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com) or Ian 07934 909968 [icgreen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:icgreen@tiscali.co.uk)

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*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.*



A Balkan Dance Remix! • 12 countries in...12 minutes!  
(World Dance Series - Special)

The Balkans! 🇧🇪 🇷🇸 🇭🇺 🇸🇮 🇸🇯 🇸🇰 🇨🇪 🇷🇴 🇧🇬 🇹🇷 🇦🇷 🇬🇪 🇬🇷 | Today's special episode is the most beautiful, but most complicated, peninsula of Europe! This dance medley consists of 12 territories of the Balkan peninsula in 12 minutes! ~ The message is quite simple: 🕊️ peace! The ...

[www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)

For all of you who love Balkan dancing, I have found a fun video on Youtube entitled :-

A Balkan Dance Remix!. Twelve countries...in 12 minutes (World Dance Series - Special) by Vasilis Petropoulis and the link for the video is :  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jkv4yO3fzss>

Vasilis demonstrates a dance from each of twelve Balkan countries and Turkey. He also has separate videos for each of these countries where he demonstrates multiple dances from that country. He also does a video on Armenian dances and others.

Regards,

**Penny Munden**

Further extracts from the "Dictionary of the Dance" by W. G. Raffé.

## **Dance Alphabet**

### **Dagger Dance** (Georgia, Caucasus)

A man's solo dance performed to the accompaniment of balalaika, or nowadays probably accordion. Wearing the dark blue tunic and fur cap of the Caucasus, and holding the dagger between his teeth, the man dances round in a circle, arms crossed over chest. The tempo and intensity of the dance gradually increase, until, with arms still crossed, the dancer jerks his head, flinging the dagger through the air until it sticks quivering in the ground. The dance is then continued in reverse, the performer plucking up the dagger and resuming the dance.

### **Diabalada Boliviana** (Bolivia, South America)

Traditional Spanish-American dance and "Morality Play" done in dance-mime before Ash Wednesday, at the mining town of Oruro, principally by local citizens. The main form is a processional dance with "devil marches". The way is 'cleared' by a condor dancer and bear dancer; Lucifer and Satan lead, elaborately attired. There follows a "devil-dance" (based on the forgotten figures of the tango), after which comes the play. The allegorical legend shows Lucifer against Michael; the Seven Vices and the Seven Virtues; together with a local Indian Goddess, here turned into the "devil's wife", with the name of Chine Supaye. The dramatic form is a simple contest, obviously devised by some eager padre among the first invaders. Great delight is taken in the evolutions of the Diabalada groups of devils, attired in great masks and costumes bright with glittering glass. The masks closely resemble those to be seen in Tibetan monastery dances, but the dancers here wear white tights instead of long red robes, while Lucifer and Satan vaguely recall the Spanish toreador dress, with its heavy red plush cloak, and a trident instead of banderillas. Youths of the town, unable to afford carnival gaiety, disguise themselves in hoods as "pepinos" (clowns), singing and making quips. They are the last traces of the once-dreaded Familiars of the Holy Inquisition. As well as at Oruro, 12,000 feet up on the Andes range, there are similar dance-plays at La Paz, as a Cemetery Carnival where the Butchers' Guild play the parts of devils. This carnival dates only from 1578, when the town was first settled by Spanish invaders.

## **Iliana's Rose Tour, Bulgaria 22nd May to 6th June 2022**

This will be the fifth time I have had the privilege to act as coordinator for an Iliana Bozhanova tour and this one promises to be up there with the best. There has understandably been a good uptake from participants in previous Iliana tours who had prior knowledge of this new "adventure" but I am pleased to say that we are now in a position to welcome more who wish to join the party.

This tour will start from Varna on the Black Sea coast before we travel through Dobrudzha, taking in the Rose Festival in Kazanlak and towns in Thrace before the final westward journey to Sofia via Plovdiv. As expected in all Iliana tours, we will be entertained by professional ensembles, welcomed by village groups, see stunning sights and enjoy Iliana's now-famous picnics in exotic locations. Accommodation will be in the best hotels as we move from town to town. The cost will be 1520 euros if sharing rooms or 1720 euros for single rooms. The flights are not included in the price.

Please email me if you would like to receive full information and a booking form: *bvdowsett@aol.com*

**Brian Dowsett**



## **News from Nutbrook I. F. D. G.**

On Saturday 18th 2021 Nutbrook I.F.D.G. held our first day course since our 40th anniversary event. The day dawned sunny and warm, a good omen of things to come. Anne Leach travelled up and taught a variety of dances from Romania, Israel, Japan, and Macedonia. The format was Covid friendly so no hand holds as yet. It was a very successful afternoon, lovely dances and good to talk to other folk and dance once more.

The future plans for Nutbrook I.F.D.G. are changing. Instead of Thursday nights we are trialling Saturday afternoons - two a month - at Bramcote memorial hall Bramcote Notts. >>

The dates so far booked are October 16th & 30th and November 13th & 27th. The sessions will be 2.30 to 4.30 and be more like Tea Dances than club nights. In our first sessions we will learn / remember solo dances like Yoiku, Tokyo polka and others. We hope to progress as time goes on. We would welcome anyone who wishes to come on a regular basis or indeed for a one off session.  
Happy Dancing

**Gill Morral**  
*[gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)*



Being on the Llangollen canal (diesel powered) at the moment -  
here's a memory from the last time I was here -  
taking part in the competition. **Ed.**





## **Tenterden Folk Festival**

Tenterden Folk Festival was wonderful for Kitka. We attended for the Sunday only and the sun shone until about 4 p.m. This was rather different from the day before when it rained all day. Such a shame as a lot of hard work goes into these festivals and the organisers are to be congratulated on their results despite the weather.

Kitka danced outside several locations including the White Lion and the old Barclays Bank building, where there was room for a sizeable crowd to gather in safety.

We shared the pitches with other groups, mostly Morris, but also a Czech group. Being the friendly sort they are, the Boughton Morris side invited Kitka to join in and learn one of their dances, which we did very willingly. In return Kitka invited the Boughton Morris to join in one of our simple horo called Prava Horo. This is danced all over Bulgaria at any special occasion (or none!). The photo on the back cover shows Kitka and Boughton Morris members enjoying a Morris dance. Thank you Boughton for helping us enjoy our day.

We look forward to next year when we hope that the festival will be back to its normal set-up.

**Sue Haydock**



## Valerie Cojucar

Alan and I just wanted to write a short note following the passing of our dear friend Val. Alan got to know Val at the Sunday night CSH dances in the early 1970s, and they remained firm friends ever since. Later, he managed to persuade her to come to Woodvale even though it was not really close for her. She really loved her dancing – performing with a number of speciality groups as well as general international with Woodvale – and until recently, she was always so full of life and energy. She would often correct us if we were not dancing with the correct style and we would try and come up to her standard! She enjoyed socialising with us, for example, at Woodvale barbecues and Christmas meals and also in the last few years served on the committee – not an arduous task but not exciting either! She taught us a number of dances – I expect that we will always call them ‘Val’s dances’ regardless of who taught them originally. I have collected a few comments from our members:

- “She was so full of energy and had such an infectious personality.”
- “I found her to be a very friendly person.”
- “We are going to miss Val so much. She kept us on our toes and made sure we did all the dances to our best ability. We must make certain that our standards don’t slip.”
- “I loved her sense of humour and generous personality, will miss her”
- “Val’s love of dancing was inspirational and it was a joy to watch her happy enthusiasm.”
- “We will always remember Val’s smile and enthusiasm for dancing. She encouraged those of us who started at Woodvale to join other groups and events in London and the south-east, as she inspired us to increase our knowledge of dances, and just dancing once a week was never enough.”

**Jenny Cant**



# Chotis de la Frontera

Mexican

Intro

7 C G D G C G D7 G

12 G D D G D

18 G C D7 G B

D G

Harmony

23

29 C G D G C G D7 G

33 D G C

35 B G D C

41 D7 G G D

G

Written by W.H.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

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Next month the music for **Unspunner Föiftritt** - could be Christmassy - from Switzerland. **Ed.**



## **SIFD Committee**

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



*Rose Festival in Kazanlak*

## NOTHING IN NOVEMBER



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