

Society for International Folk Dancing



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.

Thanks to all who have contributed to the SIFD News of 2021 - and especial thanks to Dalila for distributing it. Merry Christmas everyone.

Sadly, I have to announce that one of our members, Derek Mulquin, died recently; he had been suffering from Parkinsons disease for several years.

Iris Birch sent in this old quiz (1982) to help fill a sparse issue.

Ed.



“Just For Fun - A Quiz” compiled by Wilf Horrocks

- 1 Chopin would have appreciated this dance.
- 2 She had a lovely chest but was all tied up.
- 3 This chicken wouldn't comfortably wear a hat.
- 4 He's no officer, he's certainly not coloured, but gets around fast.
- 5 If you were twice as handy, you could dance this reel easily.
- 6 When you do this one you are, so to speak, on slippery ground.
- 7 An Israel eventide falls.
- 8 A waltz for Mum, Dad and the kids.
- 9 Do you dance this with clenched hand?
- 10 Might be described as a Danish pleasure trip.
- 11 You can see into the next garden through the
- 12 You've got to forge ahead or hammer away at this one.
- 13 The Vicar, the guests and the Best Man are all waiting, so
- 14 They applaud before this dance ends in Germany and Sweden.
- 15 Small gent in a predicament.
- 16 In this part of Northumberland they rave.
- 17 The Duke of Wellington would never have danced this one!
- 18 The Labour Party would never have danced this one!!
- 19 Beef on the hoof.
- 20 You can make this in your own private still.
- 21 Too much of it, however, might make Virginia
- 22 The warmest spot in the kitchen.

Answers on page 5.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **Jan. 8: BALKANPLUS** at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Admission £10
- Jan. 9: NEW YEAR PARTY** at Calver Village Hall, Hope Valley S32 3XR 11.00 to 17.00. Contact Greg : gregboyd99@aol.com
- S.I **Apr. 23: A DAY OF DANCE** in Dorridge, Solihull (Birmingham south) in lieu of the Great Alne Long Weekend. Morning & afternoon sessions of International Folk Dancing with our special guest Karin Bellaart from the Netherlands. Evening dance of English & Contra dances led by Frances Richardson, with music from Dampier's Round. Dorridge Village Hall <http://www.dorridgevillagehall.org/>, within easy reach of Birmingham and the M42. website: www.greatalnefolk.org.uk or phone Paul Lindley on 0121 689 1802 or 07913 615002.
- S.I **Apr.29-May.2: SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND** dance sessions with Janet Woolbar & guided walks. Robin, 01564 773482 robinnimbo@aol.com or Ian 07934 909968 icgreen@tiscali.co.uk
- S.I **May 14: BALKANPLUS** - details to be announced



Balkanplus - The Next Event!

Following on from the good feedback received from the September dance event we will run 3 evenings in 2022, on Saturdays January 8th, May 14th and October 8th.

For the January evening we will have past Balkanplus MCs leading a few dances plus live music with Ygra. The evening will be coordinated by Alan Trangmar.

Balkanplus are meeting - Saturday 8th January at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Admission £10

Any enquiries please contact maureen.felton@btinternet.com

Maureen Felton

Friday Feet is Back!

Friday Feet is finally back at Cecil Sharp House after a long, 18-month break. Sadly, some of our regulars are still not comfortable about making the journey into central London so our numbers are down on pre-Covid levels, but that's made up for by the enthusiasm of those who are attending and we're enjoying revisiting some of the most popular dances from the past. We usually coincide with the Ceilidh Club so there's a real buzz about the place.

Our focus is on new or less experienced dancers, so everything is walked through and new dances or ones that haven't been done for a time are taught more thoroughly. If you know anyone that wants to get into international folk dancing this would be a good place to start and they'd be made very welcome. We'd also be more than happy to see any of you more experienced dancers if you find yourself in London on a Friday and at a loose end! We'll be meeting every Friday until 17 December, 19.30 - 21.30 at Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regent's Park Rd, London NW1 7AY.

Ursula Brown & Anne Leach



Answers to "Just for Fun" quiz - on page 3

- | | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----|--|
| 1 | Polonaise. | 12 | Hammersmiths. |
| 2 | Bonny Breast Knot. | 13 | Haste to the Wedding. |
| 3 | The Crested Hen. | 14 | Klap dans. |
| 4 | Dashing White Sargeant. | 15 | Little-man-in-a-fix. |
| 5 | Dorset 4-hand reel. | 16 | Morpeth Rant. |
| 6 | Eiswalzer. | 17 | Napoleon. |
| 7 | Erev Ba. | 18 | Waves of Tory. |
| 8 | Family Waltz. | 19 | Ox-dans. |
| 9 | Fist Polka. | 20 | Moonshine. |
| 10 | Familie Sekstur (Familiar Sex Tour!) | 21 | Reel (Virginia Reel). |
| 11 | Hole-in-the-Wall. | 22 | Mellem kagel og ae vaeg (Between the oven and the wall). |

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

Dance Alphabet

Ezpata Dantza (Basque)

"Sword Dance". A ceremonial dance of dedication, once performed by Basque soldiers before going into battle. To the music of pipe (txistu) and drum, young men in the white and scarlet Basque costumes, perform various figures with swords and with staves, but the first figure, the **Dance Du Drapeau**, is sometimes performed separately on both sides of the Pyrenees. The **Ezpata Dantza** belongs especially to the region round Pamplona, in Spain. First the entry (**Mutchurdinak**), with dancers in double file, flag-bearer (with furled flag on one shoulder) coming down mid-way between them, where he remains while the men perform various jumps sur place. They jump first with feet together; then again as high as possible; next making a complete turn; then two jumps raising alternate legs in front as high as possible. The first pair then dance to the end of the line and the same sequence of jumps is repeated - continued until all dancers are back in their original places. On the last jump, the men fall on to one knee, body bent forward, head low. To the roll of the drum only, the flag-bearer slowly advances between the lines waving the flag horizontally over each pair of dancers in turn. Arrived at the top pair, he kneels between them and sweeps the flag over his own head. The sword dance follows, with various figures, including **Zortikoa** and **Ezpata Jokue**, when swords are clashed together; and **Makil Aundiak** when the swords are changed for staves. It is in this dance that the famous Basque high kicks occur, when, with body poised on one foot, the other leg is thrust upward in front of the body so that foot and ankle rise above the head. In the last figure, the solemn dedicatory mood returns, as the leader is lifted, and held horizontal on the up-raised arms of his companions.

Godallet Dantza (Pyrenees)

A Basque dance of the Soule, performed by five men: 1. Flag-bearer, carrying a small souletine flag; 2. the Tcherrero, carrying a stick with a horse's tail at the end; 3. "Gattia" (the cat), holding a sort of hook on a spring, with which he catches at the headgear of the spectators; 4. La Cantiniere, dressed as a woman, carrying a small keg slung over the shoulder; and 5. the Salmatzaim, or hobby-horse.

A glass, half-filled with wine is placed in the centre of the dancing-space by the "koblari", a local character who accompanies all Basque festivals, reciting appropriate stanzas. The music is in lively 2/4 time. The dancers form a circle round the glass, then one by one, in the above order, while the others stand and watch, they approach close to the glass and perform a solo. The Flag-bearer, Gattia and La Cantiniere each dance round the tumbler, and over it, but not touching it. Tcherrero and the Salmatzaim, while dancing round the glass, twist the right foot in a circular movement which just grazes the glass. Each dancer must approach the glass as near as possible, and with great skill, execute steps over and round it, without upsetting it. When each has performed his solo, they continue to dance in a circle, facing the glass.



Day of Dance, Sheffield, 23rd October

It was such a pleasure to be able to shake off some of the Covid restrictions at last and enjoy a day of proper dancing with Greg and visiting members of other local groups, even managing to hold hands now and again with adjacent dancers!

Three members of Loidis IFDG attended and enjoyed the informal programme designed to ease us gently into remembering some of the dances that had gone rusty during the last 18 months.

Many thanks to Greg and his group for giving us this welcome opportunity to renew old friends and acquaintances, together with a lovely sociable atmosphere and some live music.

As for the Loidis Group, we have been able to run socially-distanced dance evenings with 10 to 12 participants since May this year, with a break during August.

Let's hope that we shall be able to continue during the rest of the year and into 2022 as the pandemic (hopefully!) recedes toward normality.

Jean and Ian Willson, Loidis IFDG



Feedback on the SIFD Archive

The first edition of the SIFD Digital Archive of videos, music recordings, music notation, dance notes, etc was launched at the 2016 AGM and the first update was in 2018. Both represented a significant amount of work by several people and an enormous amount by Ron Wilks. We were delighted that so many people wanted one, and that many had the 2018 update.

We are grateful to the members who have donated videos and dance notes, and are working on adding any further material (that is not restricted by copyright) with a view to issuing a new update,? but first we would like to know more about what you have found useful and what problems there might have been. The absence of some day course videos has been commented on, but otherwise there has been minimal recent feedback, positive or negative.

Which parts of the archive have you used? For learning dances? For music? For looking up info in past copies of the News? Nostalgia? At home/in a class? ...

Updates since 2018 to the browsers through which the Archive is accessed have caused some of its facilities to stop working, but as far as we are aware no-one has complained or enquired about that. Possibly those are facilities that no-one has needed. Have you encountered any problems? Would you like another update? If so, are there particular day course videos (or anything else) that you would wish to be prioritised for inclusion?

Richard Mellish for the Committee



Hello,

My wife and I were in folkdance clubs in Texas decades ago, but we now live in Finland, where there are few of these kinds of groups. This past year, being unable to travel to Texas for their annual dance camps, we got connected to the Barnet folkdance club through some other Texans now living in England, Gus and Helen Wilson. They also shared a copy of your folkdance newsletter.

We have been doing 'remote dancing' with the Barnet group with a Zoom teleconference. One dance introduced to us ("Elerinka") was intriguing because I couldn't get a grip on the rhythm, so I listened carefully and wrote out the notes to get familiar with the music.

There are I guess several versions of this song, but the one played at Barnet has a long winding instrumental part that is not easily played by ear.

It was a bit of work to tease out all the notes, so we decided that we should share the sheet music to any folkdance musicians who might want to try it out for their groups.

So I'm sending this to your newsletter so that you can either print it or forward the PDF file* to musicians that might be interested. I'm sending it also to Texas, but the dance is not known there (yet).

Jim & Lola Lucke
Saimaanharju, Finland



* In order to fit Jim and Lola's *pdf* file on the A5 page (*overleaf*), it was necessary to compress it. If any musicians or singers would like the original and bigger *pdf* of Elerinka please contact me. **Ed.**



Elerinka

Bulgaria

intro $\text{♩} = 80$ C A inst.

legato > > > > etc.

vocal, G drone C

E - le - rin - ke ma - lai mo - me E - le - rin - ke mo - me mno - go e bi - la hu - ba - va

II G C G C inst.

mo - ma E - le - rin - ka a - la e i - ma - lamo - ri mno - go zla mash - te - ha

to A 2nd time
to C 4th time

B G C G C to vocal

mo - ma E - le - rin - ka a - la e i - ma - lamo - ri mno - go zla mash - te - ha

C C G C Fine

Fine

sequence:

A, vocal, B, vocal

A, vocal, B, vocal

C to Fine

Song transliteration from Folk Dance Federation of California, February 2010

The music for **Unspunner Föiftritt** (Switzerland) will appear next month; you now have an extra month to write something about it! **Ed.**



- Acting Chairman** Richard Mellish 15 Lancaster Road, Harrow, HA2 7NN
Richard@Mellish.uk 0208 863 7807
- Treasurer:** Judith Payling Rosebank, 56 Quickley Lane, Chorleywood,
Rickmansworth, Herts. WD3 5AF.
judithcpayling@yahoo.co.uk
- Secretary:** Dalila Heath 102 High Street, Landbeach, Cambs
CB25 9FT *dalila.heath1@btopenworld.com*

Other Committee Members:

Caspar Cronk 8 Langbourne Avenue, London, N6 6AL
0208 340 4683 *caspar.cronk@blueyonder.co.uk*

Holly Payling 07784 117599 *hollycp@hotmail.co.uk*

Brenda Steventon 92 Hamilton Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT6 7PT
020 8397 9649 *brenda.steventon@btinternet.com*

John Stewart 129 Glebe Road, Thringstone Coalville, Leics.
LE67 8NU *j2ohn@yahoo.com*



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



WHATS ON IN DECEMBER

Saturday 4th RATTLE ON THE STOVEPIPE Traditional English & American songs, 8.15pm. Cellar Upstairs, Calthorpe Arms, 252 Gray's Inn Rd. (corner of Wren St.) WC1X 8JR www.cellarupstairs.org.uk (also celebrating club's 60th anniversary) tel: 020 7281 7700

S.I Friday 10th BARNET CHRISTMAS PARTY 8pm to 10.30pm £5 at Church House, 2 Wood Street, Barnet, Herts. EN5 4BW. Contact: Brian tel. 01992 582717 bvdowsett@aol.com **NB** Current hall rules require the front door to be locked. Please ring the bell.



*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.
All material for the January issue of the SIFD NEWS must be received by the Editor in writing by **16th December**.*