



# SIFD NEWS

Jan  
2022

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

Best wishes for 2022 - I will try to continue producing the News. I took the front cover photo of the Macedonian lady in Ohrid back in 2005; and this month a Bulgarian motif. (see page 8 for back page snowman story)

**Ed.**



Dear Janet,  
Can you beat this?

On a very wet November day, I receive a very damp envelope containing the **July** 2021 SIFD News! It was stamped 02-07-21 and at the bottom SWLF 18-11-21. I wonder where it has been? Anyway, thank you for keeping The News going in these hard times. Glad things are easing a bit now.

I keep well, busy, active and happy. Hope all is well with all of you. Greetings for Christmas and New Year 2022,

yours sincerely,

**Ruth Coton**

P.S. I had received The November News several days earlier.



**Susan Chetwynd** also sent Christmas greetings to all members but that letter, like Ruth's, arrived too late for the December issue.

It seems postal services everywhere are not what they were (I am personally aware of huge pile-ups of mail in Northampton).

**Ed.**



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**Mar. 5: DALILA HEATH** - Favourites & Forgotten Treasures  
11.00am –3.30pm - Nutbrook dance workshop at Bramcote  
Memorial Hall Community Room, Nottingham, NG9 3HD.  
£8.00. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Please contact  
Gill Morral – 0115 9171831 or [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)

**Apr. 9: DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE** see page 5

- S.I **Apr. 23: A DAY OF DANCE** in Dorridge, Solihull (Birmingham south) in lieu of the Great Aine 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.greatainefolk.org.uk](http://www.greatainefolk.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](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com) or Ian 07934 909968 [icgreen@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:icgreen@tiscali.co.uk)
- S.I **May 14: BALKANPLUS** - details to be announced
- S.I **Oct 8: BALKANPLUS** - details to be announced



*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.*





## **Dance with Dalila in Derbyshire**

A welcome return to dancing with Dalila on the 9th April 2022 in Calver Village Hall, Main Street, Calver, S32 3XR from 1030 to 1630.

Bring your own lunch but drinks will be supplied. For further details contact Janet at 0162957065 or Gill on 01246 410020.

**Janet King**



## **Balkanplus**

Although the Covid situation looks uncertain at the moment Balkanplus are still planning and looking forward to a lively January evening of dancing. If there are further restrictions which lead to the uncertainty of the event or any other enquiries generally about the evening then please contact [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com)

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.

**Maureen Felton**



## Dance Alphabet

### Hajnaltuz Tanc (Hungary)

"Dawnfire Dance". One of the many ceremonial dances proper to a traditional Hungarian wedding, known as the "singing of the bride" \*. On the second day of the wedding, the bride and her companions would dance around the fire in the courtyard, the bride herself jumping through or over the fire, for ritual purification. Similar jumps were made by maidens through the Midsummer Fire at the June Solstice. \* *singeing? Ed.*

### Hassapikos Butchers' Dance (Crete) .

A chain dance for men only, or for men and women alternately. Each dancer with hands on the shoulders of his neighbours, the line or curve facing inwards, moves slowly round counter-clockwise, in 2/4 time. With small steps and regular footbeats, the chain moves in perfect rhythm, frequent knee-bends (from a slight flexing to a deep squatting position) causing it to dip and rise as it progresses. The leader sometimes crouches and revolves in solo exhibition. Originally from Constantinople, the Hassapikos was danced by butchers on their Feast-day, and is found also in Armenia. It was known in Byzantine times as the Makellaricos.

### Henxmen (England)

Henxmen at the Court of Edward IV, were pages, sons of noble families entering system of knighthood. The regular number was twenty-four, under charge of a Master of Henxmen who sat with them at the royal table, to observe their manners. They had to study languages (English, Latin, French) and the use of weapons. On this basis they had lessons in music (piping and drum) dance and singing to instruments. They were required to read books on courtesy and manners, rules of procedure and address. They danced as required with the Maids of Honour, and foreign visitors. Besides these "henchmen" the Master ruled the Choir of the Kings Chapel; they also learned deportment.



### **Gosport & Fareham Interfolk**

David Bloodworth of the Gosport group passed away recently. David and his wife Tessa organised the weekly classes. This is a huge loss to the Gosport dancers and also means that the club which did not restart last year will now close.

Gosport & Fareham Interfolk originated about fifty years ago as an international folk dance class led by the late Maggie Head. When she retired David and Tessa took on the task of running the group and kept it going for the best part of twenty years.

The photo from 2012 was taken on the occasion Iliana taught at Gosport; David and Tessa are pictured on the right.

David was one of Nature's gentlemen, very much liked and appreciated by all at the Gosport group. He was a good dancer and it was a privilege to know him. My heartfelt condolences to Tessa and gratitude for all she and David have done to promote international folk dance around Gosport.

**Janet Douglas**

## News from the Rainmakers Dance Group

I have enjoyed reading what other groups have been doing to continue dancing, so thought I would write an account of what we have been up to during these difficult times.

We started Zooming from early May 2020 and continued until late July 2021. During those 14 months we learned a lot about technology with all its frustrations. We started with an aim to keep our own members connected and to share and refresh our dance memories. I led most of the dances but was very grateful to share some of the teaching with Alan Trangmar. We also had Martin Butler on Zoom to play some of the music. With all the different timing of music and feet we just about managed to dance for about 1 ½ hours each session. As we hadn't advertised this in the News we were surprised when folks from other areas asked to join in. Peter and I were pleased to reciprocate by joining some of their sessions. We could exchange ideas about technology and the shared dances with other SIFD members. A worthwhile sense of camaraderie was achieved.



*6 Dec 2020 A misty day, with two 'rule of six' circles*





*18 April 2021 Two circles as still required by the 'rule of six'*

On July 18, 2020 we trialled a dance session on our local village green. The format is simple and informal, we have a mobile phone and small speaker in the middle of a circle of socially distanced dancers. We start at 11.00 am and dance for about 1 ¾ hours and have continued to do this every Sunday morning for 18 months, when Covid regulations have allowed us to meet.



*23 May 2021 Rainmakers living up to their name*

Maria Kerr (our Chairperson) and Alan help me by leading some dances and members choose their favourite dances. We are now 'official' because we pay the Parish Council £25 to dance on Gosmore Green for a year! We have been incredibly lucky with the weather and haven't had to cancel a single session because of bad weather, only once this year starting about an hour late. As you will see from the photos we have danced in fog, rain, cold and sunshine!



*18 July 2021 A hot summer's day*

We now also dance indoors at a new venue in Letchworth because The Parish Hall that we have hired for many years became unavailable. Mark Balaam (our Secretary) found us a convenient alternative venue, Wilbury Hall, on the Bedford Road, also in Letchworth. We started dancing there in early September and have continued to meet every Friday night (8-10pm). We wear masks and have plenty of fresh air with the doors and windows open, so now wear thermal layers, hats, coats, scarves and gloves! The photo of a socially distanced Dorset Four Hand Reel was taken in earlier warmer times.



*17 September 2021 Indoors at Wilbury Hall – Dorset Four Hand Reel,  
with no hand holding*

We have, however, continued to meet on Gosmore Green and find that we very much enjoy being in an open outdoor space, fitting in with the dog-walkers, runners, hikers, children playing. We see red kites flying above and watch the leaves changing colour and falling. We are now dancing beneath the bare branches of the trees and although it's the 'Bleak Mid-Winter' it seems to lift our spirits.

Happy New Year and 'Keep Dancing'

**Jill Bransby**



*25 Jan 2021 Are these frozen Rainmakers?*

## Balkan Festival Programme 1965

Jill Bransby's unearthing of the programme for the 1965 Balkan Festival at St. Pancras Town Hall must have stirred memories for those of a certain age. Henry Morris was still running the Hendon Folk Club while devoting much of his time bringing together musician friends like John Baldwin and Narendra Kotiyan to form the nucleus of Dunav Balkan Group.

At that time, the general public knew little about



Balkan folklore although the SIFD was well established and performing dance groups did exist. Philip Thornton and Ken Ward had formed the Zivko Firfov group; the Society for Friendship with Bulgaria had the dance group led by Danny Lumley with a repertoire acquired during visits to Bulgaria in the 1950s and the Oxford Balkansko Oro group led by Dimitri Feary had connections with the Yugoslav community in nearby Bicester. For those of us who had only recently been introduced to Balkan dance, the festival was an eye opener which inspired us to join these groups. A particular surprise for me was to see my work colleague Geoff Sole playing clarinet with Dunav. We both attended the Hendon club but, although Geoff and I shared a lift to work, he had kept quiet about joining the band.

The programme notes by A L Lloyd tell us how relatively small

the Balkan scene was in those days. As a renowned folklorist, broadcaster, author and singer, Bert Lloyd was always ready to share his knowledge. During the relatively short period that a Dunav Club existed, he came to a small gathering in a private house to give an illustrated talk about the music of Maramures (Romania) based on a broadcast of his on Radio 3. I mention in passing that Dave Arthur wrote an interesting biography in 2012, "Bert – the Life and Times of A L Lloyd", which disclosed how his politics allowed him to gain full access to the folk recordings which were later released on the Topic label. These recordings were advertised at the back of the programme.

The Balkan Festival programme is altogether a fine memento of a special period in the development of the Balkan folklore scene in Britain. I can't finish without mentioning the advert towards the back of the programme which encourages the concert goers to join the SIFD. "For further information please contact the Secretary: Miss L. SOUTHGATE". Of course, Lily served as the editor of the News for most of its existence and I daresay she will have her personal memories of the festival and the Balkan dance scene in the 1960s.

**Brian Dowsett**



## **Nutbrook International Folk dance Group**

January – July 2022:

Nutbrook will be having regular dance sessions led by Gill Morral on some Saturday afternoons from 2.00pm – 4.00pm. at Bramcote Memorial Hall, Main Hall, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Cost per session is £3.50 for members, £4.50 non-members. Please contact Gill Morral – 0115 9171831 or [gill.morral@ntlworld.com](mailto:gill.morral@ntlworld.com)

Dates are: Jan 8 and 22, Feb 5 and 19, March 19, April 30, May 14 and 28, June 11 and 25, July 9 and 23..

# Unspunner Föiftritt

3 times through then finish on A  
a little faster

Swiss

The musical score is written in 5/4 time and consists of several systems of music. The first system (measures 4-7) is marked 'A' and includes the instruction '3 times through then finish on A a little faster'. The second system (measures 8-11) is marked 'B'. The third system (measures 12-15) is marked 'C'. The fourth system (measures 16-18) is marked 'D'. The fifth system (measures 19-21) is marked 'A'. The sixth system (measures 22-24) is marked 'D'. The seventh system (measures 25-27) is marked 'D'. The eighth system (measures 28-30) is marked 'D'. The score includes various chords such as Gm, D7, F, Bb, Cm, D, A7, G, and A. A 'Fine (on 4th time)' instruction is present at the end of the first system. The score is set against a light blue background.

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Next month: Wilf's music for the **Ace of Diamonds** from Denmark. Has anyone heard of it? **Ed.**



## SIFD Committee

- 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:

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



## WHAT'S ON IN JANUARY

S.I **Saturday 8th BALKANPLUS** at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Admission £10 enquiries please contact [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com)

**Sunday 9th NEW YEAR PARTY** at Calver Village Hall, Hope Valley S32 3XR 11.00 to 17.00. Contact Greg for details on [gregboyd99@aol.com](mailto:gregboyd99@aol.com)



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