

SIFD NEWS



March 2022

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

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

The Dance Around The World Festival will return to Cecil Sharp House this month on the 19th / 20th - see Anne's letter on page 9.

The front cover picture of Jean and Ian Willson in Austrian costume was taken in 1966; the back page photo accompanies Fiona's article on page 8.

Those that knew Audrey Whiteley will be sad to learn that she died on February 3rd, she used to run a dance group at Watford but has lived more recently in a care home in Oxford to be near her son and his family. Ed, her husband, died many years ago. They were both keen SIFD members and came to Summer Schools, day courses, Thames boat trips etc. (*information courtesy of Jill Bransby*)

Ed.



A Diamond Couple Dances through the Years



In October 1960, we were attracted to one another across the floor while enjoying international dancing at Cecil Sharp House. Our wedding followed in March 1962, and we are delighted to inform our friends in the dancing world that we are fortunate enough to be able to celebrate our Diamond Wedding anniversary on March 17th.

Having left the South in 1974 to live and work in Harrogate, we're still actively involved with Loidis IFDG in Leeds.

We think it's true to say that Dance has to be a major contribution to healthy longevity!

Jean and Ian Willson

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Apr. 9: DANCE WITH DALILA IN DERBYSHIRE in Calver Village Hall, Main Street, Calver, S32 3XR from 1030 to 1630. details - Janet at 0162957065 or Gill on 01246 410020. Bring your own lunch but drinks will be supplied.

S.I **Apr. 23: DORRIDGE DAY OF DANCE** *see page 5*

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

Apr.29-May.2: MAY HEYDAYS at Evesham. Please visit the festival website (<http://mayheydays.org.uk>) for up-to-date information.

S.I **May 14: BALKANPLUS** - details to be announced

S.I **May 14: BULGARIAN WORKSHOP** - Basingstoke (*see below*)

S.I **Jul. 10: BALKAN WITH BRIAN IN BOGNOR**, an afternoon workshop with Brian Dowsett £7. at 2pm at the Willowhale Centre, Pryors Lane, Aldwick, Bognor Regis PO21 4JB. Janet Douglas, Tel: 01243 265010 email: sifdnews@hotmail.co.uk

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.



Workshop with Prof Anton Andonov

We will be organising four seminars this year with invited guests from Bulgaria. The first one will be Prof Dr Anton Andonov and he will deliver a seminar on 19th March in Basingstoke. Here are the seminar details:

Date: 19/03/2022 Time: 13:30 - 18:30 Tickets: £20 (includes water)

Venue: Aldworth School, Western Way, Basingstoke, RG22 6HA

Link to the tickets: <https://bgfolklore.yapsody.com/event/index/713271/iii>

The description is in Bulgarian only, however any questions, these can be emailed to: ivelinayonova1@gmail.com (next event is on May 14th)

Ivelina Yonova

Dorridge Day of Dance

April 23rd –

A day of dance in Dorridge, Solihull (south of Birmingham).

Morning and afternoon sessions of International Folk Dancing with Karin Bellaart from the Netherlands - 10.30 am to 1.00 pm and 2.00 to 4.30 pm. Evening dance of English folk dancing led by Frances Richardson and with music from Dampier's Round - 7.30-10.30 pm: Morning and afternoon sessions £8.00 each or £15.00 for both. Evening dance £8.00 - or £20.00 for whole day.

Venue: Dorridge Village Hall <http://www.dorridgevillagehall.org> which is within easy reach of Birmingham and the M42 and easy walking distance of Dorridge train station. Contact: Paul Lindley on 0121 689 1802 or 07913 615002 or email: paul.lindley69@blueyonder.co.uk.

See website at www.greatalndefolk.org.uk.

It would be appreciated if you could let us know if you are coming – but you will be most welcome anyway!



Sunday dances

As the risks from Covid have alleviated, some of our groups have resumed dancing, possibly with some degree of social distancing. Your Committee has been wondering for some time whether to resume the Sunday dances at Primrose Hill. An important concern is that these were only just financially viable before Covid arrived, so it makes sense to resume them only if enough people will come.

Please therefore will those members who live near enough to London that they could come let us know whether they will come, if and when we resume.

Will this depend on any social distancing? If so, what would you wish to see?

Richard Mellish

Put on the Music and Dance!

The circle dance group in Cardiff has done just that throughout the pandemic – both weekly on Zoom from 5 May 2020 and, at last, in person again from last autumn, fortnightly as before, at Tabernacl Chapel in the city centre. Not quite the same as pre-Covid – a well-ventilated hall, dancers distanced and unjoined, no partners or grand chains – but joyful none the less. What better way is there than dancing to keep your spirits up when the world closes in around you?



above: dancing on Zoom

In the beginning, as for everybody else, the technology was a challenge. Eventually, through experimenting and buying new equipment, plus increased familiarity with Zoom settings, the transmission quality did improve. However, internet connections can be unstable and for participants there may sometimes be a slight time-lag between audio and video. Fortunately for me, as dance leader, I have amazingly patient group members!

Of course, the programme of dances had to change to suit this new environment – dancers were perhaps watching on only a small i-phone screen, on their own in various living room spaces, with furniture to be negotiated. Dances had to have clear steps and arm movements for online teaching, with a sequence straightforward enough to remember when dancing at home.

A lot for us all to learn. Still, Zoom has now become a regular feature in our lives, and a good way to keep us connected – helping to give the week a framework so that days don't just run into each other.

Alongside this has been an opportunity for dancers from different groups to join together at Insole Court gardens (a local Grade II Listed Victorian Gothic mansion with mature enclosed gardens now converted into a community centre) for regular outdoor dancing. Over the last two years we have all discovered that Cardiff weather is far drier than we ever thought – at least on a Thursday morning – and dancing on grass among majestic trees to the song of the birds is where circle dances should be danced!



above: dancing at Insole Court gardens

Some of the dancers who have continued to dance throughout the pandemic have been circle dancers for twenty-plus years but dancing outdoors has drawn new people to the circle, attracted by the obvious pleasure dancing gives us. It has been very special finding ways to keep dancing through these trying times, and I appreciate dancers' friendship and support, their enthusiasm and willingness to adapt and to welcome new members. It has felt important for our health and our wellbeing, and to maintain the connections that we have built up over so long.

Pat Adams



Now that **holidays** are starting to happen again I am delighted to announce that I have 2 holidays ready now for this year, both with a few places left for booking.

26th March - 2nd April Dancing in Morocco with Dalila Heath and Chrisandra Harris. Also yoga options. Non dancing friends and partners are welcome. An easy going relaxing holiday at a beautiful eco lodge with pool, gardens and delicious food. Flights to Agadir from Manchester or Gatwick.

Full details here: <https://cecu.co.uk/br220329/>

14th - 25th September (approx dates depending on flights) Dancing and cultural holiday to Georgia and Azerbaijan. Dancing with Baykal Dogan and local dance teachers. Lots of travelling and exploring on this busy and exciting trip. Non dancing friends and partners are welcome. Contact Chrisandra for a brochure with lots of details, Chrisandraharris@gmail.com

Chrisandra Harris



Dear Janet

Long-term members of SIFD may remember Shirley Rogers, who joined the SIFD long before I did. She took an active part and was a member of Gaye Saunte's classes.

In more recent years she has danced in my two Bromley classes – here is a photo of her leading Zemer Atik in 2007 with my U3A group (*back page*) On March 30th this year she will be 90 years old, and still dancing!

There's hope for all of us.

Do any readers remember her?

Fiona Howarth



(Lithuanian dancers at the 2014 DATW. Ed.)



Dear Janet,

The Dance Around The World Festival will return to Cecil Sharp House on 19th and 20th March 2022.

After all the challenges and set-backs of the last two years, we can hardly believe it but it's true.

We have a full programme of performances and 'taster' workshops over the two days. Our performers clearly can't wait to get back!

We are all so grateful for the determination and initiative of all the teachers and dancers who have kept the spirit of international folk dancing alive through remote classes, 'zoom' meets and outdoor dance workshops throughout the dark days. We are dedicating this spring festival to all of you.

Please look on the website for programme details: www.datw.org.uk

There are often programme changes right up to the last minute, so please keep on checking. For more information e-mail dancetent@outlook.com or call 07749 007 040.

Anne Leach



Untitled

9 Cm D G

17 G7 Cm Bb Eb Bb

27 Eb Bb Eb Cm G7 C

39 Cm D G Cm D G Cm

D G Fm Cm G Cm G Cm

Play ABABCA

By WH, 12/02/1984

"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"

Does anyone know anything about the dance Cindruška? It is given as Czechoslovakian - and will be featured in the April issue. **Ed.**



Scandinavian Dances

Following on from Heather's notes last month I expect there were several of our generation brought up on these dances, published by the Ling Association.

I remember doing the Shoemaker, at the age of 5 in the infants school. We couldn't do a polka so we skipped around the room. Later, at the grammar school we sometimes danced in our gym classes, with mazurkas, pas de bas and schottische taught in energetic P.E. style.

There was also a series of "Folk Dances From Many Lands". Four books, all published at NINEPENNY each, with the music, piano editions at 1s 4d each!!

Margaret Joyner



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:

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





WHAT'S ON IN MARCH

S.I **Saturday 5th BALKANPLUS** at Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY 6.00pm - 9.00pm. £10. Past Balkanplus MCs leading dances - coordinated by Alan Trangmar. maureen.felton@btinternet.com or our website www.balkanplus.org.uk

Saturday 5th DALILA HEATH - Favourites & Forgotten Treasures 11 –3.30pm - at Bramcote Memorial Hall Comm. Room, Nottingham, NG9 3HD. £8. Everyone welcome, no partners needed. Please contact Gill Morral – 0115 9171831 or gill.morral@ntlworld.com

S.I **Sat.19th-Sun.20th DANCE AROUND THE WORLD** see page 9



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

