

Society for International Folk Dancing

# SIFD News

# May 2022



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

Roger has announced the sad news of the passing of Hilda Sturge, who was well known to many members (page 6/7).

Fiona has sent her report on Dance Around The World; there is a slight rearrangement of pages this issue to allow maximum colour images. The Woodvale logo features this month.

**Ed.**



## WHAT'S ON IN MAY

- S.I **Fri.29<sup>th</sup>- Mon.2<sup>nd</sup> SIFD HALSWAY MANOR WEEKEND**  
(option to stay until a.m. 5th May) Int. Folk Dances led by Janet Woolbar. Robin Morris 01564773482 or [robinnimbo@aol.com](mailto:robinnimbo@aol.com)  
**Fri.29<sup>th</sup>- Mon.2<sup>nd</sup> MAY HEYDAYS** at Evesham.  
<http://mayheydays.org.uk>
- S.I **Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> BALKANPLUS** in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY starting at 6.00pm - 9.00pm. Admission £10 There will be multiple dance leaders plus live music with Ygra. Enquiries to [maureen.felton@btinternet.com](mailto:maureen.felton@btinternet.com) or [www.balkanplus.org.uk](http://www.balkanplus.org.uk)



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



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- S.I **June 10: RAINMAKERS MISSED ANNIVERSARIES DANCE**, 7.30pm-10.30pm at Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, SG6 4YF. £10.00. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Martin Butler and Adrian Boddy. More info from Mark (01462 454210)
- S.I **July 10: BALKAN WITH BRIAN IN BOGNOR**, afternoon workshop with Brian Dowsett £7. at 2pm in the Willowhale Centre, Pryors Lane, Aldwick, Bognor Regis PO21 4JB. Janet: 01243 265010
- S.I **Oct. 8: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY 6.00pm - 9.00pm. details to follow
- S.I **Nov.19: HENRY & BETTY LEE MEMORIAL DANCE**, see below
- S.I **Dec.10: BALKANPLUS** - in Trefusis, Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road, Camden, NW1 7AY t 6.00pm - 9.00pm. 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.*



### **Rainmakers Memorial Dance for Henry & Betty Lee**

Saturday 19th November 2022 - 7.30pm-10.30pm at Ickleford Village Hall, 82 Arlesey Road, Ickleford, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, SG5 3TG. MC Jill Bransby with live music from Cloudburst.

Rainmakers would like to invite people who knew Henry & Betty to attend this dance. If you are interested in attending, please contact Mark (01462 454210).



## **Heart of England IFDG is moving to a new venue in Dorridge!**

From the Wednesday after Easter (April 20th) onwards, the Heart of England group will be moving from St. Giles Church in Sheldon, Birmingham to Dorridge Village Hall, where we have previously held W.Mids Branch Day Courses and dances.

This is a lovely modern hall in pleasant rural surroundings with great facilities and plenty of parking. We shall be dancing in the newly built Meeting Room at the back of the hall.

We have our own kitchen, seating area and toilets adjoining the Meeting Room. Our booking will be Wednesdays 7.45 - 9.45pm, as previously.

The address of the new venue is: Dorridge Village Hall, Grange Road, Dorridge, Solihull, B93 8QA (if following your satnav, look out for the Village Hall driveway). The venue is within easy reach of Birmingham, Solihull and the M42, and a short walk from Dorridge train station.

This is the link to the website with lots of information and maps and photos: <http://www.dorridgevillagehall.org>

Anyone visiting the area is very welcome to join us. We shall be dancing most Wednesdays this year apart from a break in August, but please contact us first to check just in case! You can ring me on 0797-464-9311 or email: [margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:margaretkaye@blueyonder.co.uk). Alternatively contact Robin and Judy Morris on 01564-773482.

**Maggie Kaye**



## Hilda Sturge



Members who knew Hilda will want to know that she died peacefully after an uncomfortable period of decline following a fall in September 2021.

Hilda had enormous enthusiasm for international folk dance of all varieties, though her particular love was the lines and circles of Eastern Europe. She was particularly attached to Romanian and in 1988 and 1990 attended courses in Maramures organised by Silviu Ciuciumis. She also attended two courses in Bulgaria.

She took part in every Summer School from 1971 onwards and was a faithful supporter of the Llangollen International Eisteddfod until Covid put a stop to it.

Her attendance at the 1971 and 1973 Summer Schools made her desperate to go on dancing, but there were no opportunities in Bristol. With the aid of George Sweetland and Frances Horrocks she held day courses and that led to the establishment of regular classes and of Bristol International Folk Dance.

She was the organiser and teacher, ably joined later by Pat Skinner and Helen Watkins, for about 40 years.

In recent years the classes had dwindled to a very small group of Balkan enthusiasts meeting every few weeks in our dining room to share dances led by her or by Pat Skinner. The end of that with the Covid lockdown was a devastating blow.

More than one dancer has told me of the radical influence she had on them. She made many friends within SIFD and she was sad that age and infirmity -- and sadly the death of some of them -- meant she had less contact. Dance, and the friendships that came with it, became a central part of her life.

Thank you SIFD.

**Roger Sturge**

## Thank you Hilda

A tribute to Hilda Sturge who died recently.

In 1974 a leaflet came through my letter-box advertising a day course of International Folk Dancing in Bristol. The source of the leaflet still a mystery. I went along and we danced the Serbian Suite. The moment the music for 'Ti Mome' came on I knew at once this was for me. I was hooked. It was to open up a new world.

After the day course Hilda started a weekly class, which was very successful. She was a good teacher, who paid great attention to detail. I remember her careful introduction to Dragaicuța, my first Romanian dance.

Then in 1988 Hilda opened another door for me. She suggested I join her on Silviu's cultural trip, to Maremuș, Northern Romania. It was amazing, the traditional music and dancing, the villages, and the wooden architecture. One of our highlights was going up in a chair-lift and being greeted by a dozen violinists playing their beautiful folk music. Another highlight was watching the men from Bogdan Voda dancing 'De Sarit' a very old jumping dance. They danced in a special place rather similar to our bandstands. Hilda put De Sarit into one of our performances, but unfortunately my costume did not keep time with the jumps and was still going up as I was coming down!

A year later, in 1989, we went to Plovdiv, Bulgaria on a dance course with Cathy Meunier. Hilda was to be seen, notebook in hand, writing down the dances, some of which we kept until only a few years ago. Iliana Božanova was the student teacher and Dimitar Doicinov the master.

So thank you Hilda. You did well opening up a whole new world for me and others too.

**Pat Skinner**



## Dance Around the World - Saturday

Huge congratulations to Anne Leach and her team for a very successful return to this special event in the International Dance calendar. I can only report on the fraction of the displays and workshops I saw.

Both days started with Early Bird dancing and I was able to include the dance from Ukraine, Zelenye Zhito, which was well received.

On Saturday I went to two workshops.

George led a crowded class in basic Greek dances. He built up the steps gradually and explained the region and style. The Philhelines members danced in front of, or amongst, the class. It ended with a resume of all dances taught. Well worth going.

Boyko led a Bulgarian workshop, which again was well attended. I watched from the side for this energetic session. His teaching was well adapted to the occasion. He says he teaches beginners better since becoming a father! *[below]*



Up in Kennedy Hall I watched the Sri Lankan classical dance. The various gestures and moves were explained to us, which made the performance more meaningful. *[front cover photo]*



English Morris were on form, and brandished sticks and hankies vigorously – my view was blocked for taking photos alas. This also applied to the Appalachian clog who gave a lively performance.



The Tibetans gave a workshop and I saw the deceptively simple steps, which I learned last time. In their display they not only played their instruments but danced while doing so. *[left]*

During the day there was a sudden total power cut in parts of the building, mainly downstairs. However workshops continued in improvised conditions. The worst effect for me was the loss of the coffee machine in the café, so I had to go without my cappuchino!

The Maoris thrilled a packed hall with their very loud and enthusiastic performance and gave a workshop afterwards.

*[right]*





In the evening  
Balkanplus members  
led a social dance  
which included a spot  
of live music from the  
band Ygra.

It featured a  
sousaphone player  
*[left]*

\* \* \* \*

## **Dance Around the World – Sunday**

The Bulgarians, Meraklii, fielded the largest group of the festival, including singers and children. They showed dances for men, couples and girls.

*[back page & below]*



Herts Early Dance presented a range of historical dances from Elizabethan onwards. One of the girls looked so like Anne Boleyn, what do you think?



Danielle, the teacher and leader of Flamenco Con Gusto, conducted a workshop in Trefusis. Through the door I saw lines of dancers doing amazing Spanish movements and hand gestures. Later, in Kennedy Hall we saw one of the highlights of the week. After a few solos Danielle called out all those who had been in her workshop to form up in lines behind her. Others were also invited and there was a huge group of people. What a spectacle!!! Massed Flamenco dancing, with a high degree of style, filling the centre of the hall! Flamenco con Gusto is rightly named.

I left on Sunday evening as Anne and Dave Kerridge steered a roomful of people through the intricacies of dances such as OXO reel and Hora de la Langeste [complete with shouts]. Cloudburst band played with energy and brought the weekend to a happy climax.

I understand a date is booked in October to bring DATW back to its traditional time. See you then

**Fiona Howarth**



## Dance Around the World – Sunday Supplement

Just to add a bit to Fiona's report:



Fiona started things off, leading dances in her own inimitable style.

As always, difficult choices have to be made with this Festival - 'workshops or watching'. I did some of both and can fill a couple of gaps from her report.



Morena, the Slovak group, also Alonim, the Israeli group (both with SIFD friends on show) gave lively and colourful performances; there were photos of both in the last issue.

Incidentally, you can watch a short video clip of the Bulgarians - Meraklii at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lfv7u1BWmew> (there is another even shorter clip next to it - my battery was low!)



I also watched the compelling Caribbean performance in Kennedy - to drum music - and their Quadrille workshop was evidently enjoyed by the participants.

I learned from watching the Galician dancers that the main figure is (always ?) danced alone by the lead dancer as the first part of the dance, and then taken up by the rest of the set. (*see photo below*)



English Regency era dancers often did something similar; the first couple would create the moves - which were taken up by the others as the top couple progressed down the set. (*source: Jane Austen*)

If for some reason you can no longer dance - you could still spend happy hours ‘watching’ at the next DATW.

**Janet Douglas**



# Ivanitsa

Macedonia, Yugoslavia

**A** *Not Too Fast*

Chords: C, D7, G, F, G, C, Am, Em, Am, D, G, C, D, G, Am, G, Am, Em, Am, D, G, C, G, C, C, Am, D, G, F, G7, C, F, G, C, F, G, C.

*A is an instrumental section, B is a song*

*Version received from Caroline Thomas, 3/10/85*

# Ivanitsa

*(Alternative version)*

Macedonia  
Yugoslavia

**A**

Chords: Bb, F, Eb, F, Bb, Eb, F, Bb, Eb, Bb, Eb, F, Bb, F, Bb, Gm, Dm, F, Eb, F7, Bb, Eb, Bb, F, Bb.

*Dance is relatively short - we can stop anywhere*

*Version received from Dennis Hunt 10.2.85*

**"Wilf Horrocks' Collection"**



Next month the music for **Jota Aragonesa** (begins with J). **Ed.**



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see **WHAT'S ON IN MAY** on page 3

