



Rainmakers'
Scrapbook
Volume 10
Sept. 1991~Sept. 1992

Volume 10

The

Rainmakers'

Scrapbook

From

September 1991

To

September 1992

Tuesday, September 10th 1991
Dancing at St. Andrews Sheltered Homes, Hollow Lane, Hitchin.

Following our success with the display for disabled people at Westmill, Hitchin in June the Rainmakers were invited to entertain the residents of the St. Andrews Sheltered Homes, Hollow Lane, Hitchin, on Tuesday, September 10th.

The Warden of St. Andrews suggested that we dance for "Half-an-hour or so" with a break for tea. She also said that some of the residents enjoyed Old Time dancing and were learning Sequence Dancing, therefore could we please include a few simple joining-in dances.

With this in mind Jill prepared a suitable programme and twelve of the Rainmakers went along. We were a little taken aback to find that we had to dance on a carpet but we were in a beautiful large room.

Our audience greeted us with politeness which turned to enthusiasm and delight after one or two dances. Some of them thought it was no end of a joke to join in, supported by their cheering on-lookers. They did very well but kept Jill and the rest of us hard at work teaching and partnering them. When it came to Mexican Waltz, my partner, on being told to clap behind his partner, said "I can't reach". What a gentleman! It was the laugh of the evening.

To give us all a break and to interest the audience, Jill described the varied

costumes we were wearing. They were genuinely interested and they particularly admired the embroidery on the Polish costumes that had been done by Isabel.

By the time we could drag ourselves away it was after 9.30 p.m. - so much for the "half an hour or so" stated beforehand.

The residents were delighted to have new people to chat to. One gentleman engaged Henry and I, who were wearing our Dutch costumes, for a long time, telling us about a holiday he once had in Amsterdam from where he had visited Volendam. Another person took photographs and said that he would bring down his video camera the next time we visited them. The oldest resident, aged 93, who was very prim, said to me "I had not thought of coming down tonight but I am so glad that I did."

There were many requests to "please come again-soon".

We shall meet some of these people at Westmill in January and again in June. The Warden also hopes that we will go to one of their Saturday socials next year - date yet to be arranged.

I feel that such evenings as this are far more worthwhile than most formal displays. The group of Rain makers who danced there also enjoyed themselves very much.

St. Andrews Sheltered Homes, Hollow Lane. 7.30 p.m.

Tues 10th Sept.

($\frac{1}{2}$ hr or so)

Mixed costumes

— = Join in dances
Others are demos.

PROGRAMME

1. Neapolitan Tarantella . Henry Isobel.
(with tambourines) Olive Jie
Terry Claire
Roy ~~Betty~~ Julie
2. Sandsvaerd Betty + Henry.
Terry + Isobel.
Roy + Julie Claire
3. Fyftus . Join in. (Jie team)
4. Kreuzkoenig Roy Jie Terry Claire.
5. Fymanna Schott's No. Join in. (Jie team)
6. Umbrella Dance. Henry + Betty.
Terry + Jie
Roy + Isobel.
7. Flora Hadera - all.
8. Mexican Waltz . Join in
9. Jota Tapatia. Henry + Betty.
Olive + Isobel.
Terry + Claire
Roy + Jie.

10. Musica Nisawat all.

11. Swedish Schottische.
Kung & Betty
Roy & Julie
Clive & Isobel
Terry & Claire

12. Waltz Tom in.

Rainmakers' Fifteenth Anniversary Dance.
Saturday, 14th September 1991.

1976 - RAINMAKERS - 1991

ANNIVERSARY DANCE

Springfield House, Stevenage

SATURDAY 14 SEPTEMBER

7.45 - 11.00 p.m.

Members £3

Others £4

For the third year in succession, the committee of the Rainmakers, was seriously worried that we would have to cancel our Anniversary Dance as one week beforehand, we had only sold three tickets despite the fact that members had been given the date many months beforehand.

However, on the night, with ^{ten} visitors, 31 people assembled at Springfield House.

We had a very jolly evening, dancing to the accordion played by Tina Stone and to tapes. Janet Woolbar, Frank Flanagan and Kelsey Blundell were our invited guests and we were especially pleased to see Gordon and Dalphine Stacey, founder members of the club and three visitors from the S.I.F.D. Roy Clarke, Joan and Jack Richardson all the way from Swansea after attending an S.I.F.D. Day Course in London.

During the evening Isabel entertained us by reciting two poems with a dancing theme, which were most amusing and we

all enjoyed them, especially ladies who sometimes have to dance as men.

There was no shortage of men for partners on this party night, however. Sometimes we had men as wallflowers. Why don't they dance together as women often have to?

As usual the refreshments were delicious but not as plentiful as usual as seven ladies who usually provide, were missing. However this lack did our waistslines no harm.

Ann, Belinda and Richard organised a rafflé to help the funds along.

We are all grateful to Jill for keeping the evening going with such a swing.

If September is proving to be an inconvenient month for so many of our members perhaps we had better be thinking of moving our Anniversary Dance from the anniversary date.



Photo given by
Peg. Jack Richardson →
Tina →

Notice Joan Richardson (S.I.F.D. Swansea)
Janet Woolbar
Frank Flanagan (Visitors)

See Margery's tambourine cake.

14th September

Programme.

Anniversary Dance 1991.

Mora Kadera
Lamidbar

Lublin Polka
Farkas Jekels

En Allant Aux Chataignes
Tarentella Monksvirgine.

Maori Stick Dance.

Swedish Schottische
Parisher Polka

Nikolos
Kulusco

Yaegoneuner

Russian Lyrical
Hörlepiep

Levi Jacksons Rag
Fahidino Tres Tempos

Mora Femeler

Jesuita En Chihuahua
Remingen

Wedding song.

Santis Masordke
El Comida

Little Shepherdeses



Isabel at the party, wearing new Israeli dress, and holding a Rainmakers broolly which she has made for us.

P.T.O.

Bobero Malloquin
Spitzer Achterum

Romanian Slide Dance

Bouée Pastouelle

Maiezyt

Musica Nishevat

Erev Bah

Requests - included during the dance.

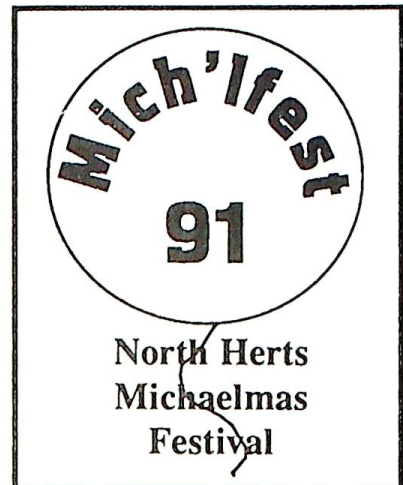
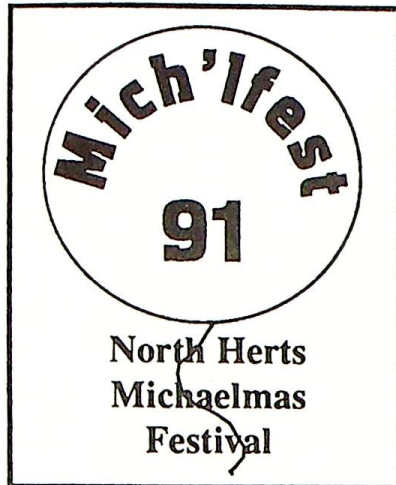
Santa Rita

2 Greek line dances requested by Kelsey.



Bill's photo of the feast.
Note Roy Clark and Jack
Richardson - two visitors
from the S. I. F. D.

Saturday, 28th September 1991.



PROGRAMME

- 1005-1020 OFFLEY MORRIS MEN
1030-1045 NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB
1100-1110 SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS
1120-1140 HITCHIN FOLK CLUB
1200-1220 STOTFOLD CHRISTIAN CHOIR
1230-1250 LETCHWORTH MORRIS MEN
1300-1320 LETCHWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB
1330-1350 RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCERS
1400-1420 RAQS SHARQI
1430-1500 HITCHIN THESPIANS
1510-1520 SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS
(IN THE COFFEE SHOP)
1510-1520 STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE
1520-1550 LETCHWORTH ARCADIANS
1600-1620 NORTH HERTS ORPHEUS CHOIR
1640-1700 BENSLOW CLARINET CHOIR

Between the main performances members of the D.I.Y.
Piano Group will play

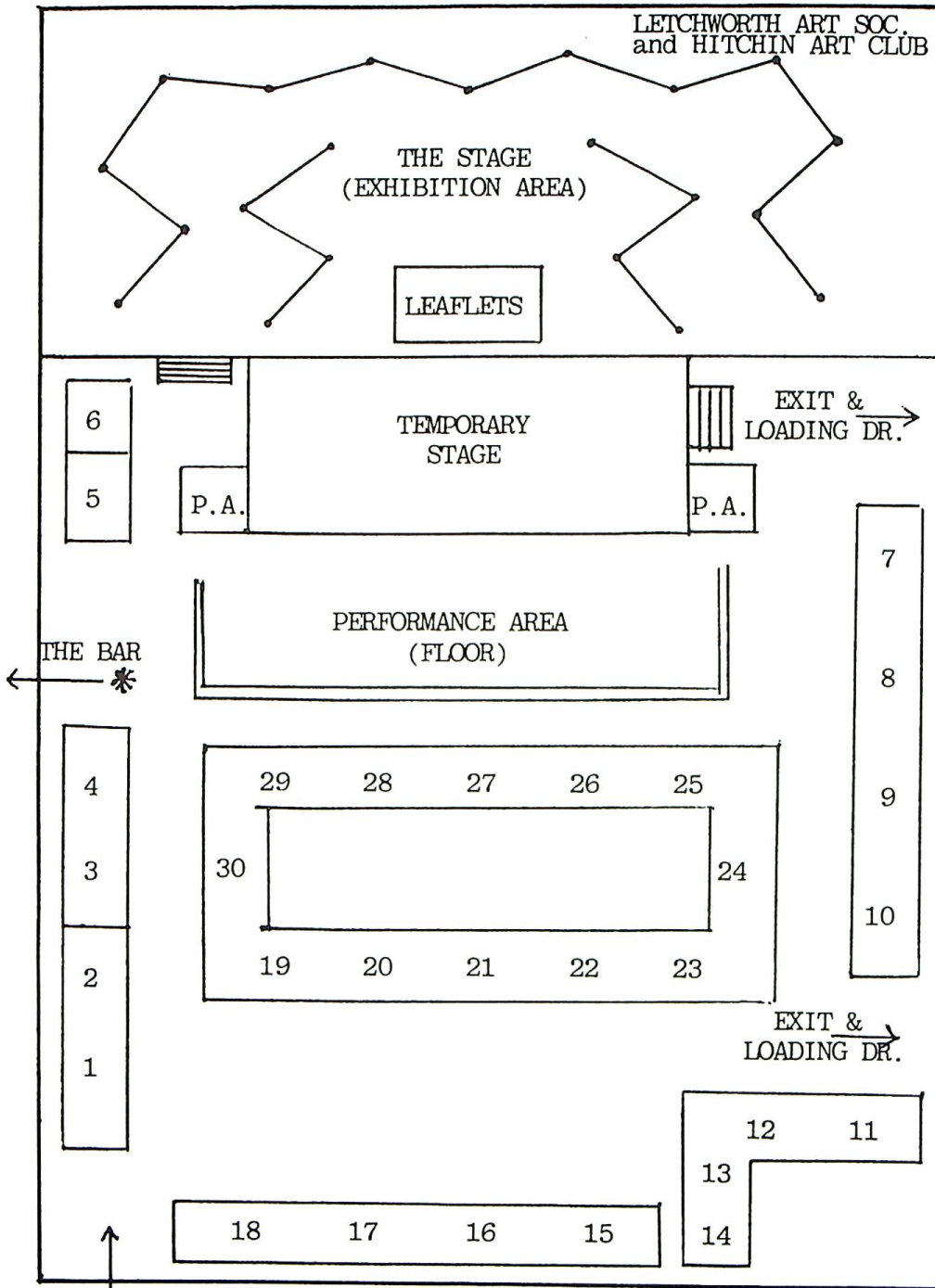
NORTH HERTS MICH'LFEST '91

PLINSTON HALL - Saturday 28th September '91

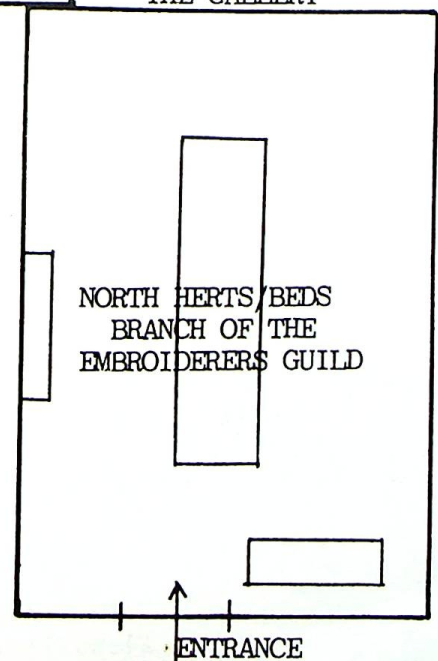
LOCATION PLAN

Table No.

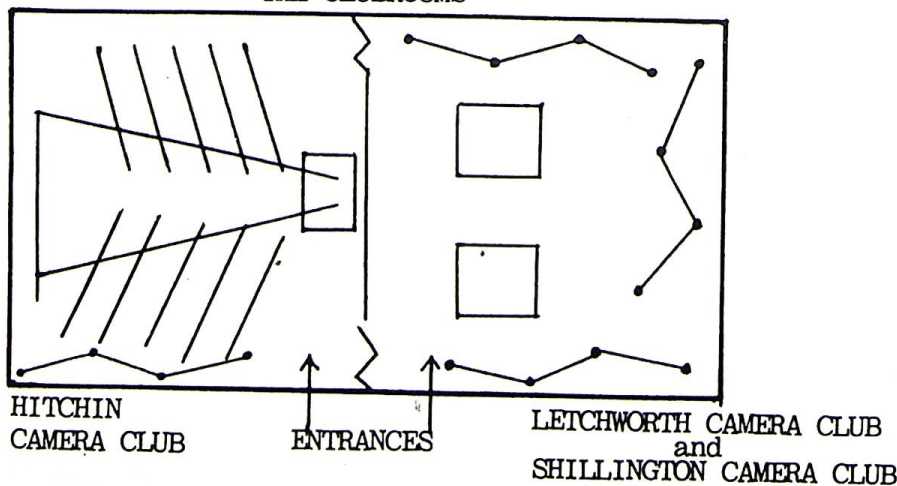
- 1) G. RENNISON
- 2) (Stained Glass)
- 3) S. PEPPER
- 4) (Pressed flowercraft)
- 5) L. SWAIN
- 6) (Macrame)
- 7) M. HAZELWOOD
- 8) (Wood Sculpture)
- 9) J. MCGEOWN
- 10) (Children's Theatrical Costumes)
- 11) GUILD OF SPINNERS,
- 12) WEAVERS & DYERS
- 13)
- 14)
- 15) J. WOOLMAN
(Corn Doll making)
- 16) R. BUDINS
(Handloom weaving)
- 17) D. CURRELL
(Model horse-drawn vehicles)
- 18) HITCHIN THESPIANS
- 19) SOCIETY OF RECORDER
- 20) PLAYERS
- 21) LETCHWORTH ARCADIANS
- 22) BENSLOW ASSC.
- 23)
- 24)
- 25) SETTLEMENT TEXTILE
- 26) STUDIOS
- 27) KNEEWORTH AMATEUR
- THEATRICALS
- 28) HITCHIN FOLK CLUB
- 29) OFFLEY MORRIS MEN
- 30) ARTS COUNCIL FOR
- NORTH HERTS



THE GALLERY



THE CLUBROOMS



* N.B. In the BAR AREA
NORTH HERTS GROUP OF ARTISTS

28th Sept. Mich'el fest Plinston Hall. 1.30 p.m. - 1.50 p.m.

Sicilian Tarantella

Adrian + Isabel
 Helen + Margery

 Henry + Betty
 Julie + Maria

 Roger + Julie Mary
 Roger + Janet

Kreuz Koenig

{	Roger + Maria	{	Sue + Adrian
	Henry + Margery		Roger + Julie

Bouée de la Chapelotte

Isabel	Henry	Betty Sue
Helen	Roger	Maria
Janet	Adrian	Julie
Margery	Roger	Maria

Ox Dens.

Roger + Adrian

Schottische - Danza degli Ombrelli.

Isabel + Henry	Janet + Roger	Sue + Adrian	Isabel.
Betty			Julie + Roger Betty.

Hosts

Adrian & Sue
(2)

(1) Henry
+
Mazzy

(3) Roy
+
Maria

Sides (order 1st)

(4) Roy & Jan
Tops.

Sandvaerd

Henry & Betty
Roger & Janet
Roy & Isabel

Shir Na' Chavana
(wedding song)

all.

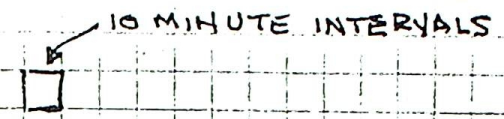
MICH&FEST 91

28 SEPTEMBER 1991

= STAGE (AREA 6 METRES
X 2 METRES)

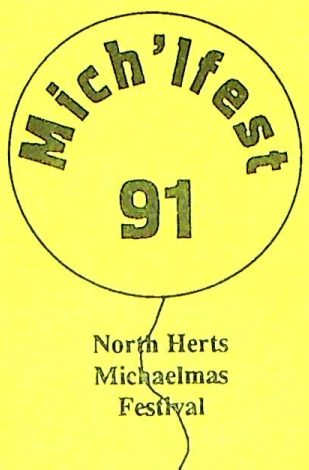
= FLOOR (AREA 6 METRES
X 7.5 METRES)

PERFORMER'S PROGRAMME



GROUP	1000 HRS	1100 HRS	1200 HRS	1300 HRS	1400 HRS	1500 HRS	1600 HRS	1700 HRS
LETCHWORTH ARCADIANS								
HITCHIN THESPIANS								
LETCHWORTH MORRIS MEN								
NORTH HERTS ORPHEUS CHOIR								
NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB								
RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK								
SOCIETY OF RECORDER PLAYERS								
STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE								
LETCHWORTH COUNTRY MUSIC CLUB								
HITCHIN FOLK CLUB								
RAQS SHARQI								
STOTFOLD CHRISTIAN CHOIR								
OFFLEY MORRIS MEN								

Saturday, 28th September 1991.

 <p>North Herts Michaelmas Festival</p>	WHEN
	Saturday, 28th September
	TIME
	10 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.
	WHERE
	Plinston Hall, Broadway, Letchworth
WHAT'S HAPPENING?	

A celebration of the Arts and a chance to find out what local people can do – including

- PHOTOGRAPHY
- PAINTING
- DANCE
- MUSIC
- THEATRE
- EMBROIDERY
- TEXTILES
- CRAFTS
- SINGING

A FULL PROGRAMME OF
PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITS
ADMISSION 30p (CHILDREN FREE)

Comet 9/10/91

Ads (0462)

Festival goes with a bang

AFTER two years of planning, North Herts' recent Michaelmas Festival at Plinston Hall turned out to be a resounding success.

Crowds flocked to see a wide range of stalls set up by arts groups and societies in the area, and there was an impressive programme of performances to keep visitors entertained.

The North Herts Reel Club and Offley Morris Men danced the day away alongside Rainmakers International Folk dancers and the Letchworth Country Music Club.

Stotfold Christian Choir and the North Herts Orpheus Choir sang for visitors, and the Benslow Clarinet Orchestra was joined by the Society of Recorder Players.

Among the exhibitors at the festival were Hitchin Art Club, Letchworth and Shillington camera clubs and the Embroidery Guild.

There were many demonstrations of arts and crafts going on too.



MARGARET CROFTS, of the Embroidery Guild, shows off her skill at the festival

784/25

Rainmakers at the Mich'lfest, 1991. Letchworth.

Over a year ago our club was asked to participate in a Michaelmas Festival to be held in Letchworth on September 28th 1991. As we are now a Letchworth club we offered to dance. This was all we knew about it until about a month ago when we were allocated a twenty minute spot

in the Plinston Hall from 1.30 p.m. This proved to be an inconvenient day and time for some of our regular dancers but fourteen Rainmakers went along. The girls of our group wore Polish striped costumes, in some cases unearthed after a very long while as we first made them fourteen years ago. However, washed, ironed (and possibly extended!) they looked attractive en masse. The men's costumes were more of a problem - the four men taking part had no Polish look-alikes so they wore black trousers, white shirts and red boleros. The "Polish" costumes must have looked reasonably authentic as a person approached Janet and said "I am glad you have got the Commies out of your country."

We found that the Plinston Hall had been laid out very attractively with stalls all round manned by members of a great many craft groups and others that meet in Letchworth. I was amazed at how many gifted artists and crafts-people are practising locally.

During the day there was a timetable for choirs, musicians and dancers in the area to do their parts in a display area near the platform fronted by two rows of seats.

The audience for our display, at lunch time, was small but it grew before the end and they were very appreciative. It was very nice to see some Rainmakers

watching us, with members of their families and we appreciated their support.

Among this "vast" audience one man was noticeably absent - a man who had said to some of our costumed group "what are you going to do?" When told "Folk Dancing" he said "What is that?". Janet patiently explained that it is country dancing and that our club performs dances from many countries in the world, and she suggested that he watch us as we would be on in a few minutes.

Isn't it amazing, that what we take for granted and enjoy so much is totally unknown to some people.

Anyway, our display went well and we enjoyed ourselves. Maybe we have even interested a new member or two.

"Enhance Your Dancing"
Two special evenings at Radwell.

In response to requests from members, particularly by notes written on the questionnaires circulated in the Summer, the committee asked Jill if she would be willing to give the club some separate, special evenings of teaching steps and dances incorporating these steps. We want to learn some dances more thoroughly, improve our style and also give newer members of the club the chance to learn some dances, slowly, from scratch.

Jill readily agreed and the first class was held at Radwell Village Hall on Tuesday, October 22nd. Nineteen people were there, including Jill and six members who joined the club during this year.

Everyone felt that this session was very worthwhile and also most enjoyable. There is great satisfaction in concentrating and trying to execute a step properly.

More of these classes will be arranged to help the beginners and for experienced dancers to have the chance to work on a long, difficult dance.

The next special evening will be on Tuesday, November 12th.

Saturday, November 2nd 1991.

Day Course of General International Folk Dancing.

Today the Rainmakers reverted to their old custom of holding a Day Course or Workshop in the Autumn instead of the Spring as we find that this time of year gives us more opportunity to follow-up the dances taught, learn them well and incorporate them in our repertoire that is possible during the Summer with people going on holiday and displays to rehearse for.

Janet Woolbar and her partner, Frank Flanagan, came to Letchworth to teach us, as they have done so many times in the past, and we are always glad to see them.

This is the programme selected by members, Jill and Janet to give us a mixture of revision and new dances. Janet said she would teach some from this list of ten dances. In actual fact she taught nine.

Gambolina	Germany	} Revision
Holzschutanz	Poland	
Maruszka	France	
Deux Deux Deux	Austria	
Untertsteirrer Ländler	Sweden	
Langdans	Switzerland	
La Storka da Cruch	Bulgaria	
Karamfil	Armenia	
Mombar	Serbia	
Zabarka	Romania X	
Brîul Lăi Remus		

We were surprised and delighted that thirty two people attended our Day Course. This number includes nine visitors. A family of four

came all the way from Solihull, Jack from Essex, Kay and Frank from Watford and a lady from Kent with a partner from Hitchin, all attracted by our notice in the S.I.F.D. News. The company numbered almost equal numbers of men and women. This was particularly gratifying as the World Cup Final Rugby match between England and Australia was played during the afternoon. Two men went home at lunchtime and did not re-appear in the afternoon but who could blame them!

The first four dances on the list were revision dances to the club but were completely new to many people.

With Janet's clear, patient teaching we managed to go through nine dances several times. The atmosphere was relaxed and happy. There was much laughter as we tied ourselves in knots learning Untersteirer Ländler but we had improved by the time we reached the final reprise after the tea break. The final dance taught was Mombar wherein the dancers are supposed to hold lighted candles. Only Janet and Frank dared to have their's lit!

Belinda and Martin made a video film of each dance to help us to remember what we did. I dread to think what Untersteirer Ländler will look like.

Janet said that she always likes coming to teach the Rainmakers as we need no encouragement to join in and she is pleased to see the dances she has taught on our dance programmes.

We certainly all enjoyed and benefitted from this most successful day.

Friday, 8th November 1991.

TRINITY HOSPICE



**ANGLO -INTERNATIONAL
DANCE
SUITABLE FOR BEGINNERS
WITH**

" THE RANGERS "
CALLER
JILL BRANSBY
ON

**Friday, 8th November 1991
7.30 pm - 10.30 pm**

* Guest Spot - Hot Dog Line, Appalachian Clogging Team *

at " TREFUSIS ",
**CECIL SHARP HOUSE,
2 REGENT'S PARK ROAD,
LONDON NW1 7AY**

**TICKETS £4.00 on the door
£3.00 in advance from:-
Sadie Stone, 4 Pelham Road,
London, N15 4RN
Phone: Tina Stone
071 438 4656 (work)**

This special dance, held in aid of Trinity Hospice, was arranged by Tina Stone, who sometimes comes to play for our Anniversary Dances.

It was a pity that it had to be held on a Friday, Rainmakers' Club night, especially as

Till was the caller, as many of us would have liked to support it. A few club members did go up to Cecil Sharp House and we heard that it was a very good dance.

ADJUSTMENTS TO 1989/1990 ACCOUNTS

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1989/1990 A/c's</u>	<u>MY. REVISED FIGURE</u>
1. Weekly Subs.	438.00	446.50.
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
2. Hall Hire - Fridays	350.00	360.00.
3. 1990/91 (Day course)	39.00	NIL
4. Town Demo practise	48.00	49.33
5. Tapes	17.99.	8.00.
6. Donation - EFSS sponsorship	5.00	NIL
7. Advance payment Springfield House.	67.50	NIL

Notes.

1. Subs for 31-8-91 (old year)
2. Hall hire 31-8-91
3. Expenditure for 1990/91 year accounts
4. Cheque issued at £13.33 instead of £12.00 confirmed by Sue Cox. as well as Lloyds Bank
5. Cheque for £9.99 not presented. issued 2.10.89. out of date 2-4-90
6. Cheque for £5.00 not presented issued 19-9-89 out of date 19-3-90
7. Expenditure for 1990/91 year of accounts.

Christmas Party: December 20th 1991.
Programme: ~ Members' Requests:

Hora Hadera
La Bastringe
Jesusita en Chihuahua
Alexandrovsky
Zabarka
Santis Masoulka
Maori Stick Dance
Hambo
Yedid Nefesh
El Corrido
Karamfil
Maruska
Rennigen
Untersteirer Ländler
La Storka da Cruz
Santa Rita
Havra Haketana
Karapyet
Neopolitan Tarantella
Parisher Polska
Musica Nishevat
Wedding Song
Swedish Schottische
Tarantella Montevergine
Ys Wals
Erev Bah



A Christmas card discovered in January, pinned to the lobby notice board of St. Michael's Hall, Letchworth.

It is from Jean and Ian Willson of the Loidis Group of the S.I.F.D. in Leeds.

They came to dance with us one Friday back in the Autumn when they were visiting Welwyn Garden City.

They commented on the difficulty they had had in finding a pub for an evening meal in Letchworth - there are none! They had had to go to Baldock.

"Deer in Studley Royal Park"
Photograph by M. Gott

Sold for the benefit of
Saint Michael's Hospice
35 Oatlands Drive, Harrogate, Yorkshire

To Rainmakers — Thank
you all for the warm wel-
come. Hope we'll see you again.

Season's Greetings

Jean and Ian Wilson
LORDS Group.

Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting,
Friday, November 29th 1991.

As has become the practice in recent years, we held our A.G.M. on the Friday in November when St. Michael's Church Hall is not available for our use. Peter and Jill Bransky very kindly invited us to hold it at their house, which gives us a very comfortable venue.

Twenty-five Rainmakers were present.

The new officers and committee were elected as follows: -

Chairperson:	Margery Heskins.
Secretary:	Belinda Lansbury.
Treasurer:	Richard Thom
Committee:	Isabel Lamont Graham Styles.

The retiring officers and committee members were thanked for their services.

There was a long discussion about the changes in the Constitution proposed by the Treasurer and Chairperson. It was finally decided that the Constitution should not be changed.

Financial matters were also the subject of much discussion.

Details of the meeting are filed by the Secretary.

The meeting ended at 10.00 p.m. by which time we were very glad to partake of Peter's hot punch ^{and} other refreshments and to converse, socially.

After this most of us watched videos of

the 1991 Hitchin Gathering made by the Stappers and the Roundabouts. It is always interesting, and fun, to see ourselves as others see us. *

We thank Jill and Peter very warmly for their hospitality

- * ♀ We also saw Belinda and Martin's video made at our Day Course on November 2nd. This will be really useful for reminding us of the dances taught then.

December.

- * * Co-opted to Committee: - Maria
Mark.

Sunday, December 1st 1991.

Annual General Meeting of S.I.F.D.

At this meeting of the Society of International Folk Dancing, our own dancing teacher, former Chairman and founder of the Rainmakers, Jill Bransky, was appointed Chairman of the S.I.F.D.

We congratulate Jill and know from experience that she will lead the Society with enthusiasm and expertise.

The Christmas Dance, which followed this meeting was organised by the Websters from South Wales, this year. They are also organising the S.I.F.D. Summer School in York in July.

Tuesday, December 10th 1991.
Preliminary Practice for the Hitchin Gathering.

The Rainmakers have once again been invited by the Staplers, to give a display in the 1992 Hitchin Gathering so those of us interested in taking part, plus a few others who came as "stand-ins" for absentees, met at Radwell Village Hall.

It was a freezingly cold night. Some people never removed their coats or hats but we all felt it was a very worthwhile practice.

Till has chosen a suite of Mexican dances that we have not performed before at Hitchin.

These are: -

Jesucita en Chihuahua

Las Chispanicas

The Mexican Hat Dance / Jarabe Tapatio

The pattern of the choreography was worked out at this practice.

The next rehearsal will be in January in a larger hall, if we can get one.

Friday, December 20th 1991.
Christmas Party.

Even though it was close to Christmas with office parties, school events etc. happening, there was almost 100% attendance, 34 people, at the Rainmakers Christmas Party.

As usual, Jill had prepared a programme of requested dances for us to enjoy. Between these dances our new committee had organised several entertainments to give us a breather and to give variety to the evening.

There was a quiz, in groups, where we had to unscramble the jumbled names of dances in the club's repertoire. It was a good thing we were not asked to spell them all properly.

During another break Graham recited a long monologue about Sam. This raised many a smile, and marvelling comments on Graham's memory.

We had all been asked to bring along a small, gift wrapped present and these were re-distributed in a free raffle.

The highlight of these extra entertainments came when Margery recited a poem she had written about Isabel having a nightmare - dressing for a display in the dark.

Then Isabel appeared wearing assorted garments and decorations from various costumes of the world. It was quite a sight! Then we each had to make a list of the items in

view and say which came from where. It was quite difficult and I do n't think any-
one recognised all ten.

This is Margery's poem:-

THE NIGHTMARE.

Now I have a tale to tell,
About our good friend Isabel.
The club were going out to dance,
And Isabel could see a chance
To have our costumes out on show,
Enhancing all our verve and go.
Now all is ready for the fun
The dancers paired, the practise done.
The programme's mixed, the costumes too.
At last there is no more to do.
Lights are out, the cats are fed,
Now Isabel can go to bed.
And so to sleep, perchance to dream,
But things are seldom what they seem.
She dreams she's getting costumes out,
They'll be correct without a doubt.
The light goes out, a power cut?,
But things are always where they're put.
So she collects the things she'll need,
It's quite soon done, she works at speed.
Next in her dream she's at the door,
Ready to walk out on the floor.
But looking down what does she see,
Whatever could her costume be?.
Now at this point I'm going to pause,
Cos it's over to you, the answer's yours ????????????

At the end of the interval for refreshments Margery thanked Jill for teaching us dances throughout the year and gave her a Christmas present from the club.

We then danced until 11.00 p.m., wished each other "Happy Christmas" and reminded ourselves that we would meet again on January 3rd 1992.

Sunday, January 5th 1992.

S.I.F.D. New Year Dance.

This was held in Cecil Sharp House, London at 7.00 p.m. Members of the new S.I.F.D. committee, led by their new Chairman, Jill Bransky, arranged the programme and took turns to be M.C.

Nine Rainmakers were there, including Jill and Peter. Some of our group wore international costumes, according to a long standing custom for the New Year Dance but very few other people did so. There was no reminder about it in the S.I.F.D. News as is usual so I was not sure what to do. This is a pity as costumes give enhancement to the occasion.

However, there were plenty of lovely dances on the programme which come into the Rainmakers' repertoire, so we enjoyed the evening very much.



Rainmakers —
Dancing at the
Christmas Party
and listening
to Graham's
monologue
about Sam.



Photographs
given by Jill.



Lo Ahavli Di



Team Game.

THE RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 1

January 1992

Rainmakers is a club that exists to enjoy folkdancing from all over the world. We meet most Fridays at 8.00 pm in St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

For further information contact : Marjery (Chair.) 0438 355254

Belinda (Sec.) 0462 455711

Future Events

- Tues.18 Feb Gathering Rehearsal at Mormon Church, Stevenage at 20.00 hrs.
- Sat.22 Feb Roundabouts Dance at Weston Village Hall at 20.00hrs.
- Sat.7 Mar Hitchin Gathering - Evening Dance 19.00-23.00hrs.
- Sat.21 Mar Van Hage Garden Centre, display at 10.45 & 15.30.
- Sun.22 Mar Roundabouts Stepping Workshop at Offley Village Hall at 13.30-15.00 hrs.
- Sat.28 Mar Roundabouts Dance at Weston Village Hall at 20.00 hrs.
- Sat.4 April Letchworth Morris Spring Revels at St. Michaels Church Hall, Letchworth at 20.00 hrs.
- Sat.13 June Westmill Disabled, Westmill Community Centre Hitchin, display at 15.00 hrs.
- Sat.11 July Hitchin Festival, display with the Offley Morris at Market Square, Hitchin at 13.30 & 16.30hrs.
- Sat.26 Sept Rainmakers Anniversary Dance at Ickleford Village Hall at 20.00hrs.

Present Event

On the 23rd of January Belinda produced a future female folkdancer, named Jessie Gee Lansbury and weighing 7lb 5oz. Many congratulations to Belinda and Martin on this happy event and we all look forward to dancing with our youngest member eventually.

From the Chair

Dear Terpsichoreans, no that doesn't sound quite right, the Dear is OK but the Terpsichoreans will have to go. Dear Partners, well yes, sometimes. Dear Fellow Trippers, I know it's the light fantastic but that is just too fantastic. Dear Folkdancers, Ah that seems to be a bit better, now I think I've got it.

Dear Folk, well this is where Rainmakers break new ground again, this time in print. One of our members not only suggested that it would be nice to have our own news sheet but volunteered to do the donkey work involved. So here we are with No.1, I wonder if it will have an original value in years to come, perhaps we should all save our copies!

Rehearsals for the Gathering are going on apace, and from the sidelines where I sit watching whilst everyone dances their socks off, it looks as if it is going to be our best to date.

It is very gratifying to find the "enhance your dancing evenings" enjoyed so much. If anybody gets an idea which they think will be helpful, please buttonhole a Committee Member and pass it on.

I cannot help commenting on the good turnouts we are having, not only are the numbers good but as I look round and see the happy faces I know we have the recipe right for having a good time.

Happy dancing.

Marjery

Costume Corner

Q. If you meet a Dutchman from Volendam, how can you tell whether he is married or single?

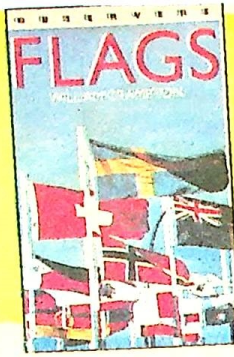
A. Look at his back. If he is married, his trousers are laced with green cord. If he is single the cord is red.

Another married/single distinction :- in old Russia the crown-like headdress (Kokoshnik) worn by unmarried women was open at the top, and they also wore their hair down in plaits. Married women wore their hair up, and the kokoshnik was closed at the top - only her husband was allowed to see his wife's hair.

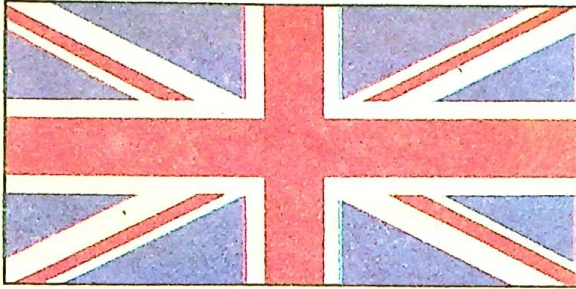
Isabel

From the Editor

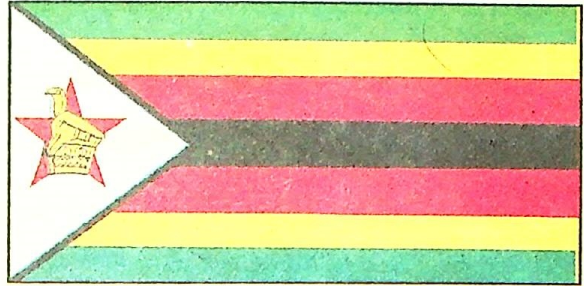
Please send in more articles, letters, descriptions of past or future events, gossip etc to Terry [phone:0767 312275] who composed this amazing missive on Wordperfect 5.1 .



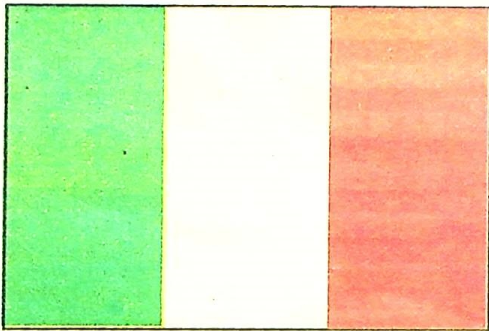
Taken from *Observers
Flags* by William
Crampton, published
by Frederick Warne,
price £4.99
ISBN: 07232 36992



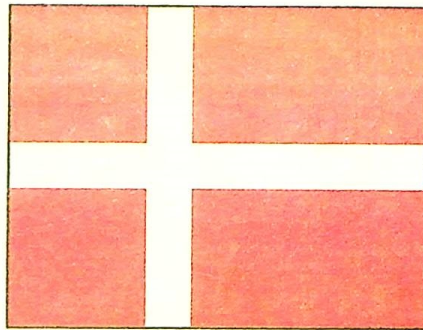
United Kingdom



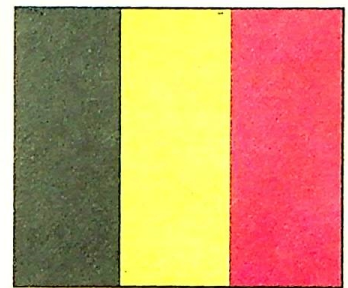
Zimbabwe



Italy



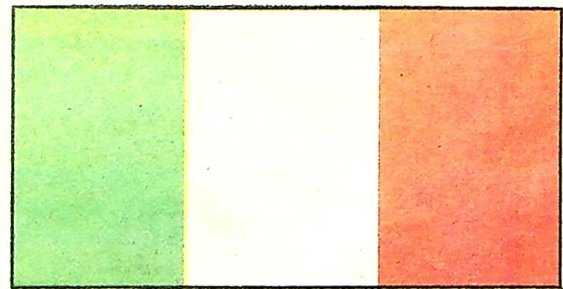
Denmark



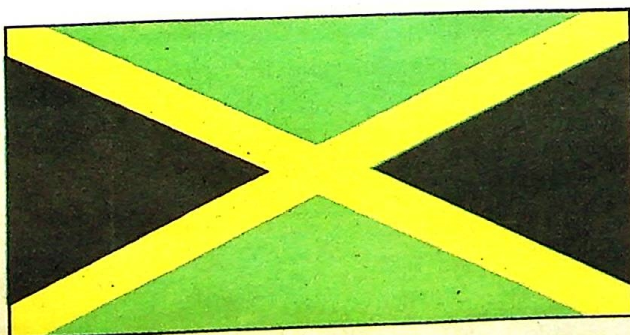
Belgium



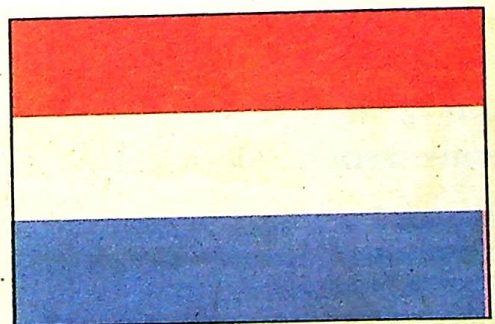
Spain



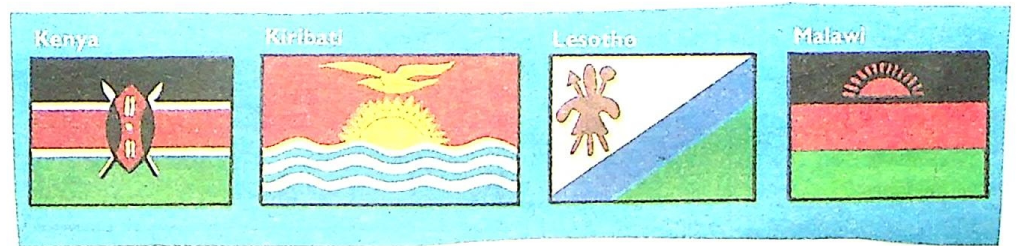
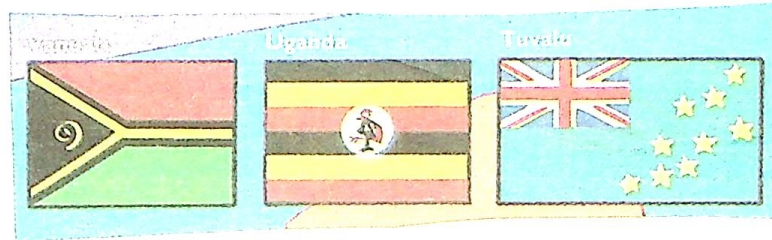
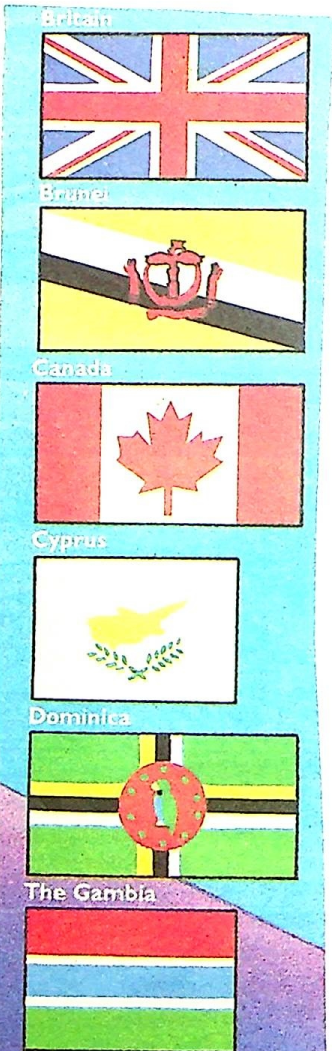
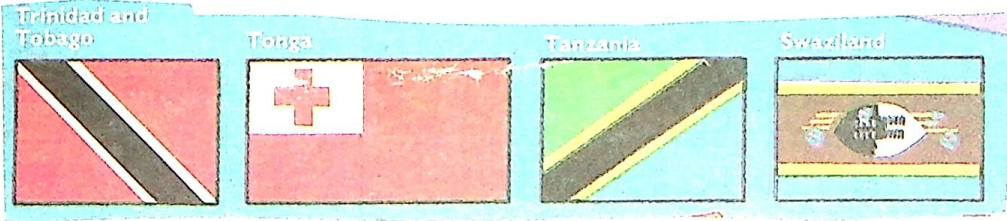
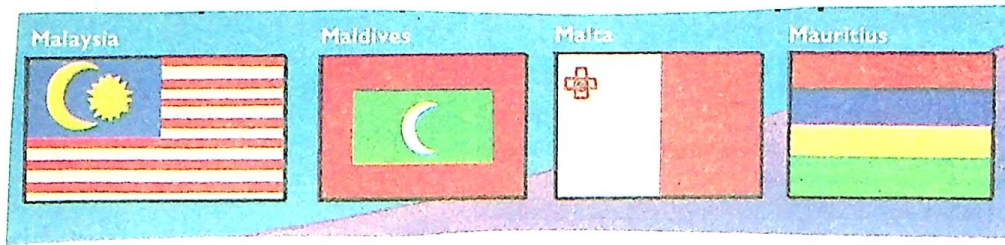
Ireland

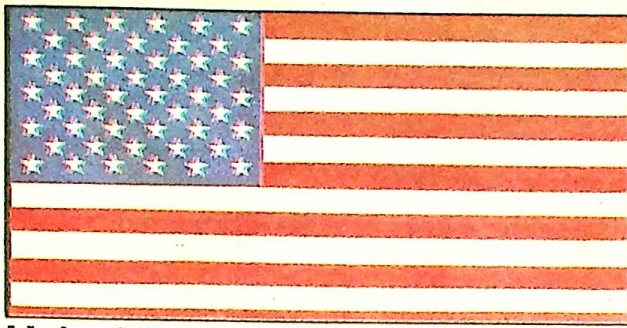


Jamaica

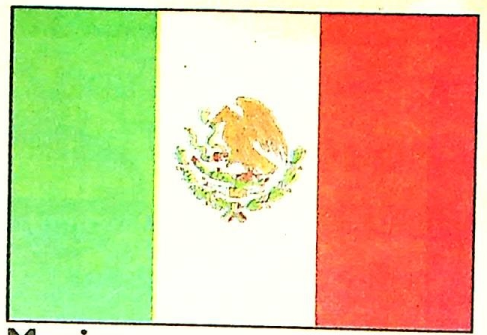


Netherlands

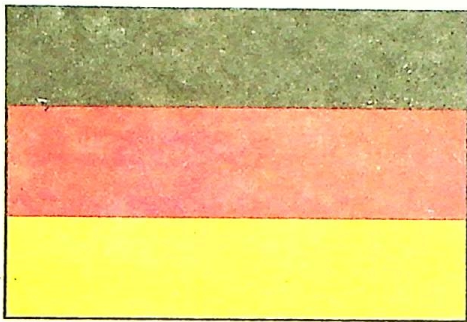




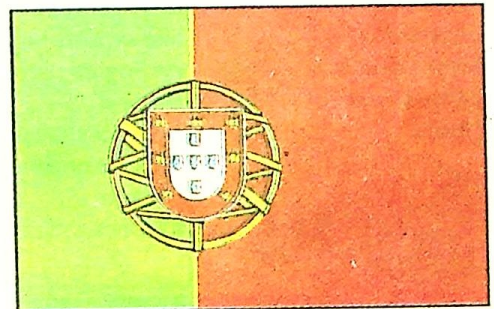
United States of America



Mexico

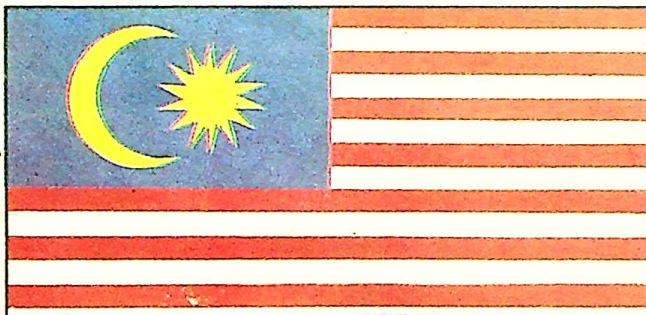


Germany

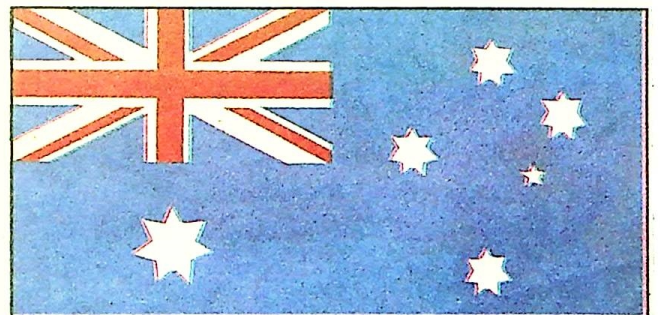


Portugal

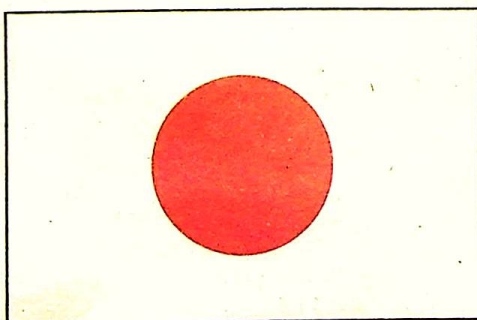
DAY



Malaysia



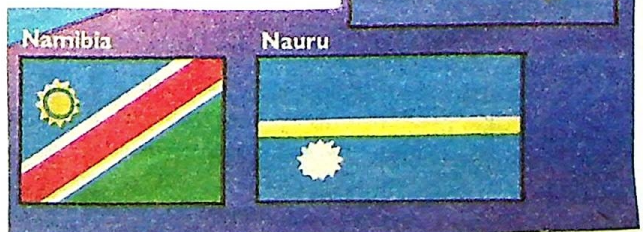
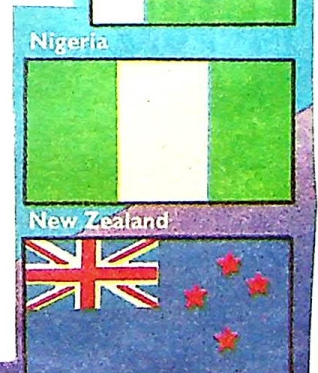
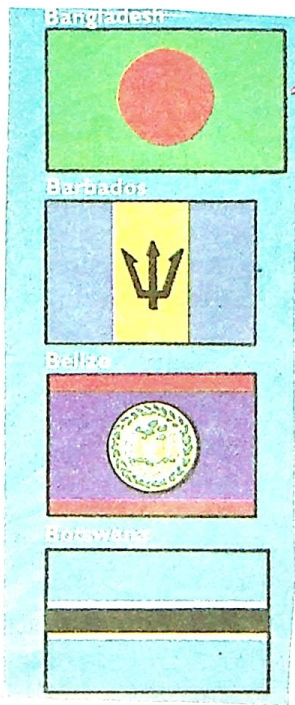
Australia

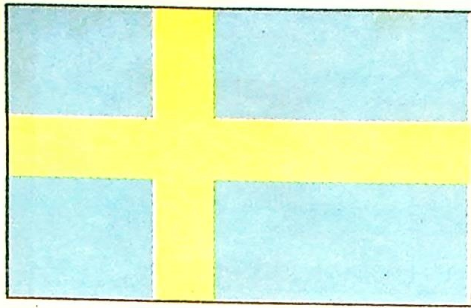


Japan

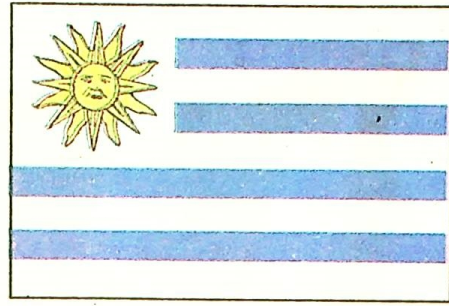


Brazil





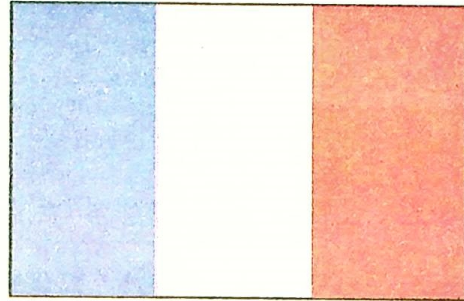
Sweden



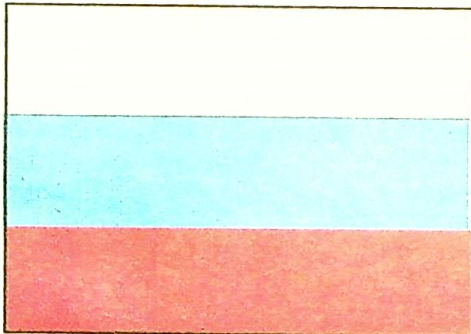
Uruguay



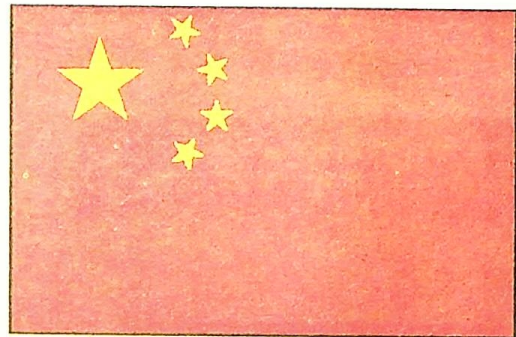
Israel



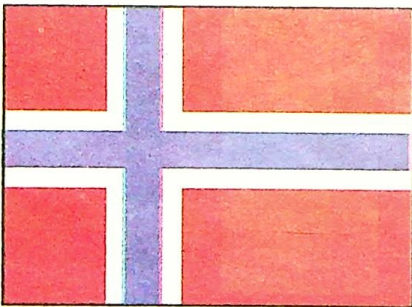
France



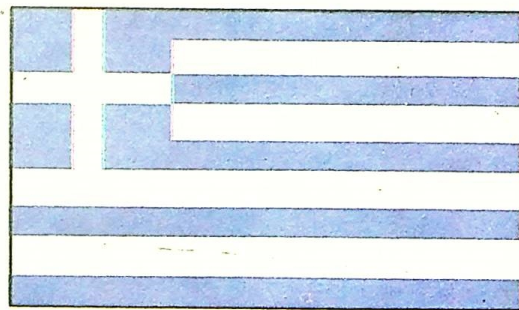
Russian Federation



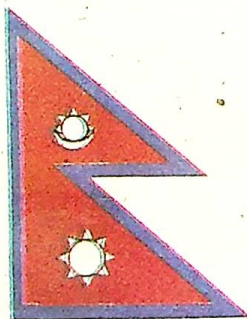
China



Norway



Greece



Nepal

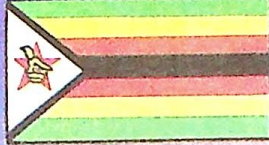


Canada

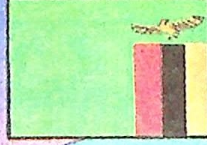
Antigua and Barbuda



Zimbabwe



Zambia



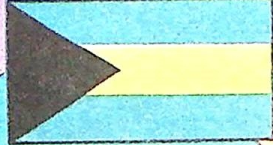
Western Samoa

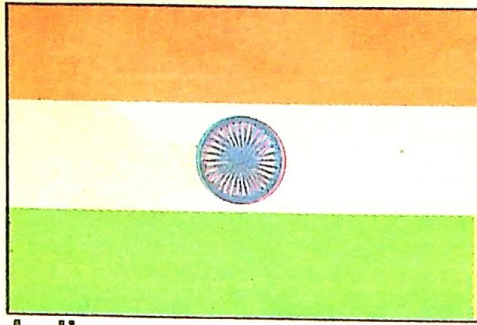


Australia

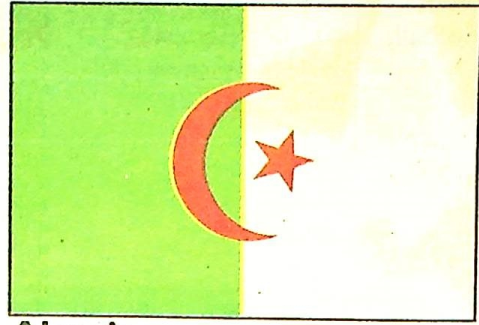


Bahamas

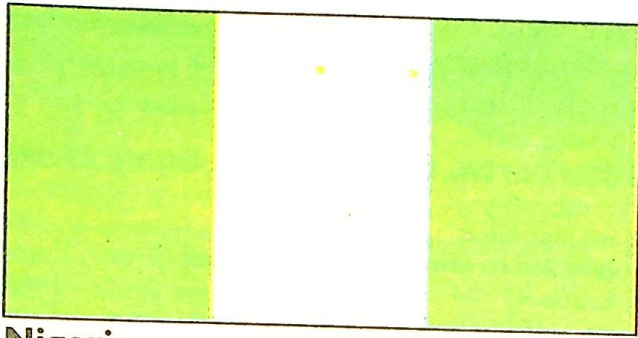




India



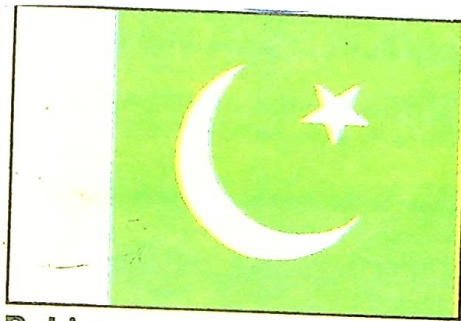
Algeria



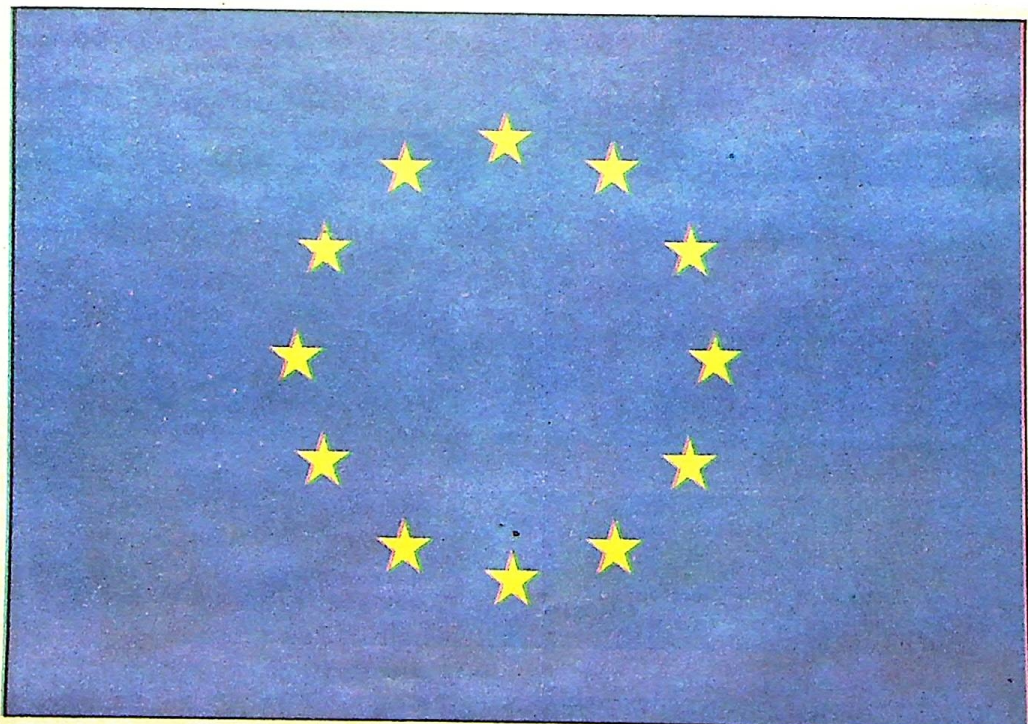
Nigeria



Libya



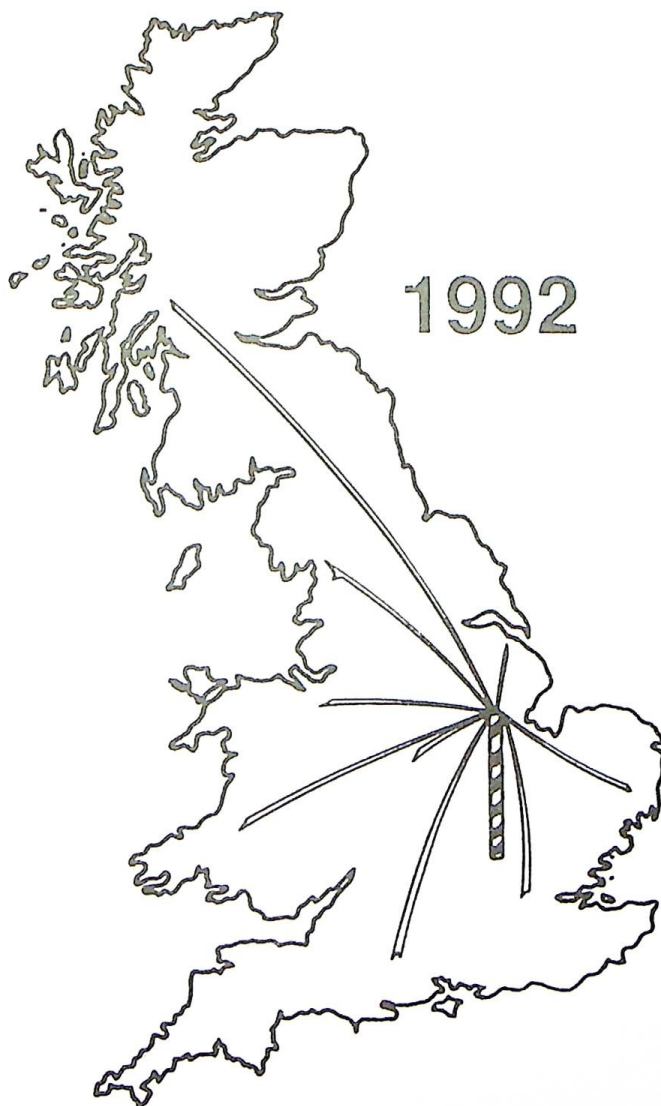
Pakistan



The European Community

The 34th Hitchin Gathering.
Saturday, 7th March 1992.

Staplers



Hitchin Gathering

THE 34TH HITCHIN GATHERING

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 1992

Welcome to Staplers Country Dance Club's annual folk celebration. This afternoon our talented array of guests and Club members will show off their party pieces – many of which have been prepared specially. Our audience is always very discerning so the standards have to be high.

This evening we have two attractive Folk Dances. If you are new to folk dancing this is a splendid opportunity to dance under the guidance of two of the best callers around. Plenty of people will be delighted to give you a hand. Details are on the back page.

Of course, the whole event is a great occasion to support the aims of the English Folk Dance and Song Society and a good excuse to meet old friends and make new ones while doing so.

The Gathering would be impossible without the many Clubs, Bands and individuals who come together to perform, and the members and friends of Staplers who put in so much hard work behind the scenes. To all of them and to our audience, we say a big "thank you". We wish you all a most enjoyable day whether you are watching or performing.

STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

Find out more about English Country Dancing by visiting Staplers at their club nights: 8pm on most Mondays in Bancroft Hall, Recreation Ground, Bancroft, Hitchin. We are a lively, mixed Club with over 100 members. We warmly welcome all new members. Please contact Ces Mills (Luton 881966) or Graham Styles (Letchworth 677916).

Our thanks to
NORTH HERTS
District Council
for the loan of flowers

Available all afternoon
REFRESHMENTS
in the Small Hall
by Hitchin Rangers & Guides

THE GATHERING DISPLAYS

The Orange and Blue Band: Leader - Roger Nicholls
Master of Ceremonies: STAN TAPLIN

OVERTURE	THE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND
STAPLERS	INTO EUROPE The Spaniard Vienna Waters of Holland
NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB	FRAE A' THE AIRTS Portnacraig Gang the same gate Quarries' Jig
PUMP HOUSE CLOG MORRIS	Pump House Polka
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD FDC	CONTRASTS Marvel Arch Let's move it The Old Boot
OFFLEY MORRIS MEN	Wheatley Processional Lads a bunchum Beaux of London City
--- CHILDREN'S DANCING with YVONNE LIMBRICK ---	
WITCH ONE MORRIS	Alexandra Road M22 Stick Dance The Pavilion
RAINMAKERS	MEXICAN MEDLEY Jesucita en Chihuahua Las Chiapanecas Jarabe Tapatio

KEN OKINES

MY KIND OF FOLK

BEDFORD MORRIS

COTSWOLD MORRIS
Trunkles
Balance y straw

HODDESDON
CROWNSMEN LADIES

Old Lances
Ivy Sands Hornpipe

STAPLERS

Bucksaw Reel
Bridge of Athlone
American running set figures:
Wild Goose Chase
California Show Basket
Wind Up the Ball Yarn

--- CHILDREN'S DANCING with YVONNE LIMBRICK ---

STANDON MORRIS MEN

White Ladies (Aston)
Upton Hanky Dance

IAN ROBERTSON

FIDDLESTICKS!

ROUNDABOUTERS

Comical Fellow
Touchstone
Mutual Love
Roundabout 21

HODDESDON
CROWNSMEN MEN

Second Dance (Rapper)

CONTRA

BIG DEAL

Please join us in Circassian Circle

Thanks to William Warder of FOLKDISCO for PA.
 92 Austen Paths, Stevenage. Tel: (0438) 360898.

THE GATHERING DANCES

Tonight from 7pm to 11pm join us here again

FOLK DANCING

with

**BRIAN JONES and
THE RANGERS**

**JOHN RILEY and
CAT'S WHISKERS**

Refreshments included

Licensed Bar

Entry: £4.50 or £4.00 with current EFDSS card

CONTACTS FOR OUR GUESTS

BEDFORD MORRIS MEN	John Frearson: Sandy (0767) 681057
CONTRA	Eileen Muscroft: Worksop (0909) 481772
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD FDC	Sheila Anderson: Hemel Hempstead (0442) 68636
HODDESDON CROWNSMEN	Sarah Heath: Harlow (0279) 815395
IAN ROBERTSON	Swindon (0793) 876877
KEN OKINES	Stevenage (0438) 317892
NORTH HERTS REEL CLUB	Jennifer Warburton: Hitchin (0462) 812691
OFFLEY MORRIS MEN	Bernard Higgs: Hitchin (0462) 433005
PUMP HOUSE CLOG MORRIS	Lorna Bailey: Watford (0923) 264267
RAINMAKERS	Belinda Lansbury: Hitchin (0462) 455711
ROUNABOUTERS CDC	Pat Gray: Baldock (0462) 896250
STANDON MORRIS	Brian Austin: Royston (0763) 72240
WITCH ONE MORRIS	Katy Harrison: Hertford (0992) 582588

We look forward to seeing you at
THE 35TH HITCHIN GATHERING
on Saturday 6th March 1993

STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

HITCHIN GATHERING



HITCHIN TOWN HALL

Saturday 7th March

2.15–4.30pm
Adults £1.50
Children 70p

DISPLAYS

of dance, music and song
in the folk tradition

7–11pm
£4.50
With supper
(£4 with EFDSS card)

DANCES

Brian Jones & The Rangers
John Riley & Cat's Whiskers

For details phone: Luton 881966 or Hitchin 432258

Advance publicity for the Hitchin Gathering
from the local press.

From clogs to Mexico

FOLK dancing goes the Mexican way at a festival of country dances from Britain and around the world.

The showcase of song and dance brings well-known English groups to Hitchin Town Hall for everything from clog-dancing to Mexican peasant dances.

The afternoon of jigs and reels on March 7 is the 34th annual folk festival organised by the Staplers Country Dance Club of Hitchin.

The club, which dresses in purple and yellow to reflect Hitchin's history in the lavender and straw industries, is one of nearly 20 groups performing at the festival.

Herald & Post 26/2/92

Folk gather at town hall

THIS Saturday sees the annual folk gathering at Hitchin Town Hall.

Organised by the Staplers Country Dance Club in Hitchin, it will include displays of various forms and styles of English and international social dancing.

This year the emphasis will be on

English ritual dance comprising of clog and morris dancing.

There will also be spots for solo artists including local folk singer Ken Okines.

The event starts at 2.15pm and finishes at 4.40pm.

Stevenage Comet. March 4th 1992.

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group
Hitchin Gathering 1992
(March 7th.)

This year the Rainmakers present 3 dances from Mexico. The dancers are wearing Mexican costumes.

The first dance is a couple dance from Northern Mexico called JESUCITA EN CHIHUAHUA (pronounced "HESUSITA EN CHIHUAHUA" - last word like the dog.)

The second dance is called LAS CHIAPANECAS (pronounced "LAS CHE-AP-ANECAS") It is from Chiapas.

The final dance comes from Jalisco and is the famous Mexican Hat Dance - JARABE TAPATIO (pronounced "HARABAY TAPATEEO.")

The music is played by members of "Cloudburst" with Barbara Burton of "The Rangers."

The Rainmakers meet virtually every Friday in Letchworth to dance mainly European dances from many countries and they welcome new members.

Today they present:
MEXICAN MEDLEY.

This is the introduction, written by Jill, for the M.C. at the 34th Hitchin Gathering;

as he announced the Rainmakers' display.

As usual, the Staples had made meticulous preparations for their big day of the year. All participating clubs are given full instructions beforehand. Included in this is the injunction that each "spot" must last no longer than six minutes, including leading on, off and any announcements. In order that the timetable be strictly adhered to, teams have to assemble in the bar at least fifteen minutes before they are due to perform.

What a flurry there was amongst the Rainmakers as they made their way along the corridors in very good time, to be told "Quick, you are on now! The Children's Dancing has been cancelled." No time for last minute nerves, reminders or peeks in the mirror. Henry hurriedly stuck on his Viva Zapata moustache as we stood under the balcony whilst the M.C. Stan Taplin, made his announcement. With the words "Mexican Medley" we were on.

Barbara (from the Rangers Band) Hazel and Wendy (from Cloudburst Band) had worked very hard to learn our Mexican dance tunes. They did really well, getting the speed and rhythms of the dances beautifully. Jill had had a worrying time in finding musicians to play Mexican music after Martin Butler, the leader of Cloudburst who usually plays for us, had had to go into hospital in February. We were glad to see him in the audience, evidently recovering from his operation.

The dancing display seemed to go well and was enjoyed by the audience. The only fault I noticed was that half Henry's moustache came loose and began to flap during the Mexican Hat Dance. This put him off his stroke and caused some laughter.

Taking part in the Hitchin Gathering is one of the highlights of the Rainmakers year. It is good fun, it brings club members together with a common objective and it improves our dancing. This year was no exception and despite many worries beforehand, we all enjoyed it very much.

The whole afternoon was most enjoyable and many of us returned to the Town Hall to dance from 7.00 till 11.00 p.m.

Club members who take part in the Hitchin Gathering are most grateful to Jill for all the thought and work she puts in by devising the display, organising musicians, teaching us the dances and encouraging us to do them properly - or as well as possible. She must have heaved a sigh of relief when Saturday afternoon was over.

P.S.

Since March 7th several very complimentary remarks have come our way from members of other dancing clubs who attended the Gathering. These included:

- "Lively and colourful."
- "Very professional."
- "A very good display."



Hannah and Janie on Gathering Day, 1992

Finale - Mexican Medley



Harabe Tapatio - Mexican Hat Dance · 7-3-92
↓



Photos taken
by Elizabeth.

Stevenage
Comet.
March 17th
1992.

Post -
Gathering
Reports
from the
Press.

With bells a-ringing



OFFLEY Morris Men go through their paces at the Staplers Country Dance Club's annual folk gathering 1307/18

Folk gather at annual event

THE sound of scores of bells ringing could clearly be heard when the Offley Morris Men took centre stage at the annual folk gathering.

Hitchin Town Hall was the venue for a series of displays organised by Staplers Country Dance Club depicting various styles of English and international social dancing.

It was the 34th time the gathering had been held and there was also a unique offering of songs and music with not only Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire clubs taking part but also some from as far afield as Nottingham.

Children were also able to join in with dancing led by Yvonne Limbrick.

Reel fun

REELS, polkas and jigs were among the variety of dances at Hitchin Town Hall on Saturday, courtesy of the Staplers Country Dance Club.

The 34th Hitchin Gathering had something for everyone as part of the town's annual folk tradition and visitors enjoyed displays by groups from across the country.

Among the clubs showing off their talents were the North Hertfordshire Reel Club, morris dancers from Offley, Standon and further afield, not to mention the Staplers

themselves, with a very European theme.

Youngsters got into the act, too, with children's dancing organised by Yvonne Limbrick during the afternoon.

In the evening, two sessions of folk dancing were on offer to all, with Brian Jones and The Rangers in one room and John Riley with Cat's Whiskers in the other.

Once again the event was well supported with plenty of people making their way into the hall throughout the afternoon and evening to see what was going on. Plenty even stayed on to have a dance themselves.



● Reeling: Dancers at the Hitchin Gathering

North Herts.
Gazette.
March 13th
1992.

Post-Gathering Party.
Friday, March 13th 1992.

As usual we held a party on our club night after the Hitchin Gathering. For various reasons only twenty people were there, which was a pity as we had a lovely evening. Those who were present enjoyed a varied programme of dances chosen by Jill, to include six requests. The feast at the interval was especially good—we needed more people to eat it. The festive atmosphere was helped by almost everyone wearing a national costume. Isabel thanked Jill, on behalf of us all, for preparing our dancing display at the Gathering.

Programme:

1. Vlasko
2. Jota Tapatia
3. Chotis de la Frontera.
4. Hora Femeilor
5. Maple Leaf Rag
6. Rennigen
7. Lublin Polka
8. Jarabe Tapatio
9. Doudlebska Polka
10. Fadhino Tres Temps.
11. Wedding Song.
12. Tzahalat Chassidim
13. Tarantella Montevirgine
14. Hora Zemer
15. Jota Antigua

16. Kalamatianos
17. La Bourée Pastourelle
18. Appenzeller Klatschwaltzer
19. Bourée de la Chapelotte
20. Hashual.
21. Hora Hadera
22. Mexican Waltz.
23. Musica Nisherat
24. Little Shepherdesses.
25. Groot Met Stroop
26. Nikolos
27. El Cornida
28. Galop Kontra
29. Ssulim Ya' Akov
30. Salty Dog Rag
31. Dans Clem.
32. Rav Bracht
33. Erev Bah.



Dondlebska Polka



Musica Nishevat.



Kalamatianos

Photos all taken and given by Elizabeth.



Salty Dog Rag.

Rehearsal for Display at Van Hage's Garden Centre.

Grand Opening at Van Hage

The Van Hage Garden Company are this year's designers of the garden awarded the Gold Medal for Best Garden Design at the Chelsea Flower Show. Established for 39 years, we have just undergone a major re-development and we are proud to announce the grand opening of one of Europe's top garden centres.

If you love gardens and gardening share this experience with us and find out how you can receive 10% discount off garden plants all year round plus many more benefits from our Garden Club. Details available from 21st March.

Opening times: 9am to 6pm 7 days a week



The Van Hage Garden Company
Great Amwell, Hertfordshire. Tel: 0920 870811
Only 30 minutes from London and Cambridge

**We've taken the gardening experience
into the 90's**

Sunday,
March 15th
1992
at Radwell
Village Hall.



Vleegert.



Haake Toone



Horlepiep



What were they
up to in the
tea break?!

On a cold Sunday
afternoon Moya
very kindly provided
tea for the dancers.



Photos all given by Elizabeth.

Van Hage Garden Centre, Great Amwell - Saturday
21 March 1992

Following a major redevelopment of the Van Hage Garden Centre at Great Amwell, the company planned a grand opening event on 21/22 March. As a special attraction they hoped to bring a team of Dutch dancers over from Holland, but when that idea failed they turned to the Rainmakers for help. Originally they wanted us to dance both Saturday and Sunday, but we said we were available only on the Saturday, and they agreed to that. So immediately after the Hitchin Gathering we set about transforming ourselves from cuntry Latin types into down-to-earth northerners, as the Mexican costumes were laid away and the Dutch ones were dug out from the back of the wardrobe. With a bit of borrowing from those who had costumes but were not taking part, we managed to kit-out all those who wanted to participate.

At first they had wanted us to dance just after 9 a.m. and again late afternoon, but thanks to Belinda's efforts they eventually agreed to performances at 12.30 and 3.30 p.m. We were, however, rather surprised when there was no mention of Dutch dancers in a full-page advertisement for the event that appeared in the 'Comet' newspaper — were we perhaps disguised as 'Children's Entertainment', 'Ballet Display', or perhaps 'Clowns'?

The day itself was dry, with sunny periods, but with a very strong blustery wind — at one point two of the men had their hats blow off as we danced, and Sue's partner (Moya) almost got blown away too! The programme consisted of Hakke Toon, Boaropstekker, Vleegert, 1/2 vals,

Horlepiep, and dance from Roussel. Our first spot did not attract a large audience — people were going home for lunch and the cold wind did not encourage them to linger — but we had a bigger audience in the afternoon. We danced on a brick-paved area outside the main exit from the buildings. In the morning they provided us with a table from their stock to put the equipment on, and asked us not to mark it, otherwise they would not be able to sell it later. We couldn't imagine anyone wanting to buy it anyway — a small, round, folding table, green metal — price tag £59-99!!! (When we returned in the afternoon we found a family party sitting at it, eating ice-cream, but we got hold of a wooden vestle table that suited us better.)

Between performances we had a pleasant couple of hours at Julie's house in Hertford — she laid on tea and coffee and delicious home-baked cakes to supplement our picnic lunches, and her hospitality was much appreciated.

So, all-in-all, we had a good day, and the Club benefitted from a donation of £50.

Isabel

P.S. I had just completed my costume in the morning and adjusted my cap when the doorbell rang. I hesitated about answering it — but it might be the postman so I finally opened the door — to find a couple of rather surprised Jehovah's Witnesses on the doorstep! However, the man very gallantly said how nice I looked, and when I explained the reason for my outfit he said they wouldn't detain me, and went away. I wonder how long it took them to get over the shock.



Not a day trip to
Holland but to
Van Hage's Garden
Centre, Amwell, near
Ware, Herts.

21-3-92.

Publicity for
the Rainmakers
by Mr. Chad
(alias Graham).

Photos all taken
and given by
Elizabeth.





The "Dutch" Rainmakers assemble.

Adrian, Sue, Graham, Roy, Janet, Clive.
Belinda, Isabel, Barbara, Julie, Peg, Claire
Moya, Maria,



Ready to lead on.



Haake Toone (or Dance from Roussel?)



Vleegert.
Throw your
wife!



Horlepief



An interested audience for the Horlepiep
on a cold, windy day.



Hop si hoi! (Hondepijp.)



Ys Wals.

Note Martin operating the Coomber and minding Jessie.

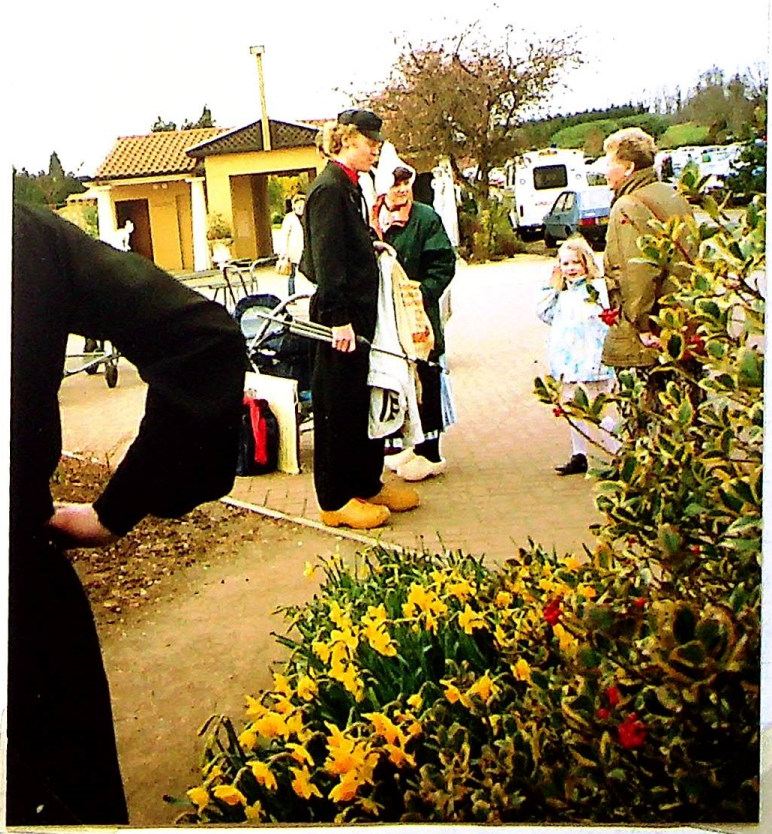


After the display.





Prim-roses?!
Who will
buy this
bargain —
even for
two?



Meeting the
public.
"I like your
clogs."



Rest, lunch and Jessie worship at Julie's home.



"It's going to be cold, to go out there and do it all again this afternoon."

Enhance Your Dancing .

Tuesday, 31st March 1992 . 8.00 p.m.

The planned series of Enhance Your Dancing evenings at Radwell Village Hall, were resumed on Tuesday last, now that the Gathering is over.

These help beginners to learn basic steps and movements in International Folk Dancing and to put them into dances. More experienced dancers are reminded of points of detail and style which they have forgotten or perhaps never knew.

Till teaches slowly, carefully and with repetition on these occasions. It was a great pity that only eight people took advantage of this class.

Those who were present found it an enjoyable, helpful evening. Many thanks to Till!

The Committee will be considering the viability of these sessions on the last Tuesday of the month unless a larger attendance is promised.

Dances taught by Nick Green on
March 27th 1992.

1. Hora de la Lăngesti - easy, warm-up
Romanian circle dance
with shouting
"Here's one" etc.
2. Românește de Pucfat. - Romanian couple
dance (Transylvania)
3. Brîul lui Remus. - Faster Romanian
circle dance, 3 figures.
4. Joc de Leagane. - Open circle dance with
leader. The midwives
dance. Romanian.

Instead of a normal club evening on Friday, March 27th we invited Nick Green, an S.I.F.D. teacher who lives in Watford to come to Letchworth to teach us some new dances.

He is an expert on Balkan dances, and, wearing his long boots, danced most elegantly. The music for the dances he chose was really beautiful and mostly slow. Though the steps were relatively easy we found we had to concentrate hard to remember them and fit them to the music.

It was a pity that so many of our members were not there for various reasons. However, the twenty of us present had an enjoyable, memorable evening.

Tuesday, 14th April 1992.
Display at St. Andrews Sheltered Home,
Hitchin.

Following the success of the Rainmakers' visit in September to the St. Andrews Sheltered Home for elderly people, we were invited to return to give another evening of display and joining-in dances.

On April 14th six couples of dancers went along. As before, we were given a warm welcome and a room in which to leave our coats.

Belinda was in charge this time and she had devised an interesting, very lively programme for us. When we saw the list of dances we were a little apprehensive as to how we would cope on a carpet and in the heat of their lounge, but all went well.

The residents enjoyed watching us tie ourselves in knots dancing Untersteirer Ländler. They were very expert knots, which I can say as I was watching this dance. They applauded all the dances enthusiastically and were delighted to be asked to join in some of them. Waleuki was a particular success.

There was an interval of half an hour during which we were offered — not a cup of tea but a free bar! A magnificent spread of refreshments was laid out for everyone to partake. The residents had made scones and sandwiches

themselves. Margaret, the Warden, and the staff are very pleasant people. They obviously put themselves out to give the residents a happy atmosphere in which to live.

The second half of our programme went with a swing and by 9.30 p.m. the Rainmakers were hot and puffing but the residents had had a jolly evening. We were warmly thanked and asked to go again.

Programme:

Neapolitan Tarantella
Tzahalat Chassidim

Display

"

Brande de Cosnay

Join-in.

Sadala Polka
Shir Ha' Ciytuna

Display.

"

Nigans Shel Yossi

Join-in.

Kreuz Köenig
Untersteiner häändler

Display

"

Mexican Waltz.

Join-in.

Parson's Farewell
Russian Waltz
Karapyet.

Display.

Walenki

Join-in.



Postcard from Jill and Peter, on holiday in Pine Mountain, Georgia, U.S.A. April 16th 1992.

Baldock Festival
VICTORIAN STREET FAIR
Free Entertainment · Music · Dancing
Childrens Rides · Exhibitions · Craft Stalls
+ The Town Goes Victorian For A Day +
Baldock High Street
Saturday 16th May
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.



Advance publicity for the Baldock Festival in the local newspaper. The Rainmakers will be dancing at the Victorian Street Fair on Saturday, May 16th 1992.

Rainmakers Folk Dance Group.
Annual General Meeting.
Friday, November 29th 1991.

To be held at "Red Gables" Benslow Path,
The Avenue, Hitchin at 8.00 p.m.

AGENDA.

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Minutes of 1990 A.G.M.
3. Matters Arising.
4. Secretary's Report.
5. Treasurer's Report.
6. Chairman's Remarks.
7. Election of Officers and two committee members.
8. Amendments to the Constitution.
Proposed by R. Thom and M. Heskins.
9. Matters for discussion proposed by the committee
 - (a) Raising of annual and/or weekly subscriptions.
 - (b) Financial losses incurred by displays including the hiring of halls for rehearsals.
10. Any Other Business.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1990-1991.

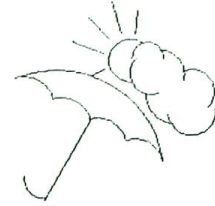
<u>1989/90</u>	<u>INCOME</u>	<u>1990/91</u>	<u>1989/90</u>	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>1990/91</u>
446.50	Weekly Subscriptions	576.75	360.00	Hall Hire - Club nights	498.00
16.00	Annual subscriptions	17.50	79.33	- Display practises	<u>25.00</u>
60.00	Displays	30.00	38.73	Squash.	523.00
	Annual Dance - Income	110.50		Postage	26.55
16.52	Expenditure	<u>107.00</u>	3.50	Phone.	10.74
	Day Course	59.20	15.90	Stationery etc.	13.16
37.04		43.20	8.00	Tapes	47.87
17.95	Deposit Account Interest	16.00	22.40	Insurance	4.95
13.91	Video refund.	11.78	18.30	Subscriptions - SIFD	22.40
	Christmas raffle	8.05	5.00	OSCA	13.80
13.00	Sale of costumes			<u>6.00</u>	19.80
22.00	Part refund Springfield House.		43.53	Victoria Embankment	24.98
17.00	Ethiopian Famine Appeal.		20.00	Hitchin Gathering	10.30
42.00			42.00	SIFD Xmas Dance expenses	-
			19.65	Ethiopian famine appeal.	-
				Miscellaneous	17.77
<u>701.92</u>		<u>663.58</u>	<u>672.84</u>		<u>721.52</u>
	Excess expenditure over income	57.94	29.08	Excess income over expenditure	
<u><u>701.92</u></u>		<u><u>721.52</u></u>	<u><u>701.92</u></u>		<u><u>721.52</u></u>
701.92	Net Income	663.58	9.66	Cash in Hand	47.64
672.84	Net Expenditure	721.52	463.51	Current account	80.81
29.08	Profit/loss	(57.94)	226.66	Deposit account	513.44
670.75	Balance b/f.	699.83	<u>699.83</u>		<u>641.89</u>
<u>699.83</u>		<u><u>641.89</u></u>			

THE RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE CLUB

NEWSLETTER No. 2



April 1992



Rainmakers is a club that exists to enjoy folkdancing from all over the world. We meet most Fridays at 8.00 pm in St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

For further information contact : Margery (Chair.) 0438 355254

Belinda (Sec.) 0462 455711

Future Events

Displays

Tues 14th April 8.00 pm	St. Andrews Sheltered Home Hitchin
Sat 16th May T.B.A.	Baldock Street Fair Baldock
Sat 13th June 3.00 pm	Westmill Disabled Club Westmill Community Centre, Hitchin
Sat 11th July Afternoon T.B.A.	Offley Morris Hitchin Festival Old Market Square, Hitchin
Sat 18th July 12.30 pm	Victoria Embankment Gardens London
Sat 26th September 3.30 pm	Arthritis Care Club Westmill Community Centre, Hitchin

Workshops

Tues 28th April 8.00 pm	Enhance Your Dancing Radwell Village Hall
Tues 26th May 8.00 pm	'' '' ''
Tues 30th June 8.00 pm	'' '' ''

Dances

Sun 6th September
7.00 pm

SIFD Dance run by the Rainmakers
Cecil Sharp House, London

Sat 26th September
8.00 pm

Rainmakers Anniversary Dance
Ickleford Village Hall

OTHER CLUB'S EVENTS

Sat 25th April
8.00 pm

Dance to Alan Gibson with tapes
Weston Village Hall

Fri 1st May to
Mon 4th May

Eastbourne International Folk
Festival

Sat 9th May
7.45 pm

Friday Folk Spring Barn Dance
with Colin Messer & Cloudburst
Oaklands College, Hatfield Road,
St. Albans

Fri 22nd May to
Mon 25th May

Roundabouts invite you for a
weekend of dance, walking and
sightseeing at Hawes in the
Yorkshire Dales

Fri 19th June to
Sun 21st June

Litchfield Folk Festival

FROM THE CHAIR

Quoting from Gilbert and Sullivan "How time flies when you are enjoying yourself", it certainly seems to have since our last Newsletter.

Congratulations seem to be the order of the day, the Club having given two very successful displays this month. The Mexican dancing at the gathering was greatly appreciated, both for the dancing and the spectacle, indeed Rainmakers seem to have brought a real feel of Mexico to Hitchin, well done everyone involved. The other display at Van Hages Garden Centre was Dutch, and was enjoyable for both the dancers and the audience, to say nothing of the cheque.

I think that there can be few clubs that have displayed two such different styles in so short a space of time, which just goes to show what a versatile lot we are. I'm sure you are all aware of the hard work Jill has put in to make these displays so successful, and to achieve such a high standard of dancing, our thanks once again to Jill.

There are more displays to come, and if you feel you have missed out on these two, make sure you get your name down on the lists which you will find on the table. Having proved so popular and beneficial I know you are all glad to find that the "Enhance Your Dancing" evenings have been put into our club programme and details are available.

Happy Dancing, Margery.

FROM THE EDITOR

Please inundate me with articles, letters, descriptions of past and future events or even "for sale" or "wanted" ads..

Happy Writing, Terry.

Saturday 16th May 1992.
Baldock Street Fair.

Today the Rainmakers are going to Baldock to dance in the street fair. It is a nice day for the street fair. They are going to dance outside a pub. The first dance was Jesusita En Chihuahua which is a Mexican dance. It involves partners. Next dance was Tancus. Graham Sheila Roy and Jill were doing that dance. Everybody was doing the next dance called Hora Hadera. Graham Belinda Jill and Roy did the next dance called Parsons Farewell. Number five and six were the dances that the Rainmakers went straight into instead of going off and then coming back on again. The fifth dance was called Salty Dog Rag (which I thought was a old English dance.) The sixth dance called Zemer Attik was done by everyone. It was a Israeli dance.

Next they did the Swedish Schottische, followed by Kreuz Roenig which is a German dance. Then they did a dance using three men and six ladies, called TreKants Polska, where the man goes to all of the ladies and his two ladies get jealous.

The final dance which is my favourite called Musica Nisherat. We had lunch in the pub's garden. I think the Rainmakers enjoyed themselves at the Baldock Street Fair.

By

Hannah

P.S.

Leany.

Can't wait till I'm older so I can

do

A doll

tree

in.

Rainmakers at Baldock Street Fair
Saturday, May 16th 1992.



Relaxing
at the pub.



Till at
the top
of the
church
tower.



Views from Baldock Parish Church
Tower.



Photographs taken & given by Jill.

Westmill Community Centre

13th June 1992

Henry Betty
Richard Maria
Graham Belinda
Clive Julie
Adrian Peg
Martin Sue
Barbara.

(1) Jesusita En Chilnana

Tancuj
Hora Hedera
Parsons Farewell
Salty Dog Rag
Zener Afik

(2) Wakenki

Untersteirer Landler
Swedish Schottische
Kreuz Konig
Trekub Polka
Sadala Polka
Musica Nisloret.

Saturday, June 13th 1992.
Dancing at Westmill, Hitchin. 3.00 p.m.

The North Herts Club for the Disabled meets monthly at Westmill Community Centre, Hitchin.

Thirteen members of Rainmakers went along to dance for them until about five o'clock. As last year, we were given a very warm welcome. Our audience had been ranged round the hall this time, so instead of us dancing at the stage end we could go right down the middle and give the onlookers an uninterrupted view.

Belinda led the proceedings and, between dances, she talked about the club and the various costumes we were wearing. It was a very hot day so we were glad of a few short pauses and also the break for tea and cakes.

Our very youngest "raindrop" was there, namely Jessie Lansbury aged three months, and she loved the music and dancing, jiggling about in Belinda's arms and waving her hands. Some of the audience enjoyed watching her more than the dancing.

The display went well and was much appreciated by the audience. I am sure many of them wished they could have been dancing too. Afternoons spent like this make us glad that we are mobile and we are only too pleased to give a little pleasure to others less fortunate than ourselves.

Saturday, 11th July 1992
Festival of Dance in Hitchin.



THE OFFLEY MORRIS MEN

PRESENT
A FESTIVAL
OF DANCE

Saturday 11th July 1992
The Old Market Square
Hitchin Town Centre

1-25pm	Offley Morris Men
1-35pm	RamRugge Clog Morris
1-50pm	Offley Morris Men
2-00pm	Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group
2-10pm	Fiona Mac Mahon The Hot Kickers Irish Dancing School Band.
2-25pm	RamRugge Clog Morris
2-35pm	Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group
2-45pm	The Dance Theatre School
3-15pm	Offley Morris Men

HITCHIN
Festival



FESTIVAL OF DANCE.

The Offley Morris Men wish to thank the following groups who have kindly performed for your entertainment in this second Hitchin Festival of Dance. If you are interested in joining any of the groups, I am sure that they will make you very welcome.

We hope that you enjoy the displays.

~~Fiona Mac Mahon~~
~~Irish Dancing School~~

~~Fiona Mac Mahon~~
~~0604 702016~~

Rainmakers
International Folk Dance Group

Belinda Lansbury
0462 455711

RamRugge
Clog Morris

Jane Rogers
0582 794854

The Dance Theatre School

Caroline Wright
0767 318240

Also

Geoff Brazier (Amplification)

North Herts District Council

Mark Elliott Master of Ceremonies (Offley MM Green Man)



THE OFFLEY MORRIS MEN

John Fisher
0462 455176

Saturday, 11th July 1992.

Festival of Dance - Hitchin.

The Rainmakers did not make it rain today, it was already raining when a group of twelve dancers from our club, plus several supporters, met in Hitchin Market Square, to dance as part of a fortnight long Hitchin Festival.

We watched the Offley Morris Men and Ramrogge Clog Morris (a team of women and men) perform before our club was on. The proceedings started late. By the time Rainmakers were on a good crowd had gathered, whereas before that we were thinking "Poor Offley, is it worth it, with the rain and small turnout".

The announcer, having been provided with a short history of the club, as requested, and a list of dances with explanations and phonetic spellings to help pronunciation still managed to make a mess and muddle of his introductions to the Rainmakers. However, our club's display went very well and looked most attractive.

After the first spot we listened to the Hot Kickers Band (Country and Western) and watched more displays by Offley Morris and Ramrogge.

The crowd round the square stayed on and enjoyed the Rainmakers second display. The only hitch of the day came when Jill's scarf fringe became entangled in Clive's shirt button - neither could move during Waleuki until the fringe was torn! What a pity that rain fell quite heavily most of the time as it was an enjoyable afternoon for all.

Mitchin Festival - Town Square - outside Com Exchange

SPOT 1 2.0 p.m.

(Meet 1.50 p.m.
in Square)

A GOTTA

TARANTELLA RIVILISI

STEIREGGER XI

RAV BRACHOT

SPOT 2 2.35 p.m.

JESUSITA EN CHIMUACHA

HORLEPIEP

WALENKI

MUSICA NISHERET

COSTUMES.

(RED & BLACK)

WOMEN -

BASQUE. (Red & white & black
with apons, scarves &
headscarves.)

MEN -

BREECHES. BLACK
WHITE SHIRT + RED JACKET.
WHITE SOCKS.

Cutting from Stevenage Comet - Weds. July 15th 1992



CLEVER CLOGS: The Letchworth
Rainmakers 1734/35

Damp Dance

RAIN didn't stop play at Hitchin's Dance Day on Saturday.

The day, part of the Hitchin festival, was based in the market place.

Morris, jazz and folk dancing were all featured during the day, which coincided with the Hitchin and Letchworth carnival - ensuring a large audience for the groups of local dancers who braved the weather to demonstrate their skills.

Festival events still to come include Arizona Smoke Revue at the Queen Mother Theatre tomorrow (Thursday), Hitchin Thespians' concert of European Music at the Dell on Friday and Saturday and the Son et Lumiere at Hitchin Piazza on Saturday.

Rainmakers dancing
Steiregger.

Hitchin Festival.

A nice picture - thank you Comet, especially as it was the only photograph published of any festival event, apart from the Carnival, happening that week. Note to the Editor - Rainmakers are not wearing clogs, it was Ramougge who did.

They who danced were:-

Margery, Clive, Julie, Adrian, Sue, Belinda, Graham
Sheila, Henry, Mark, Roy, Jill.

Hitchin
Festival

July 11th 1992

Meet ~~1.50~~ 1.45 in Town Square - meet

SPOT 1

2.0 p.m.

if Isabel
comes

Lead on

A Gota



Adrian + Sue
Mavis + Jill
Graham + Sheila
Henry + Julie
Rory + Margaret
Clive + Brenda

Julie
out

Stay on

Tarantella Rivivisi

STAY ON

(as above Julie instead of Isabel)

but
swoop
quiddy
(lead out)

Stay on
but

Steisegger x1.

STAY ON REFORM.

swoop
quiddy

(as above Isabel instead of Jill)

(Jill out)

(waltz off.)

run on

Ras Bracht All.

RUN ON + RUN OFF.

run off Jill will lead off.

(JILL LEAD)

SPOT 2 . 2.35 p.m.

Jesusita En Chihuahua

(can come in any order)

Adrian + Sue Dance on.

Marc + Jill

Graham + Sheila

Rory + Maggie

Henry + Julie

Oliver + Belinda

As A Cota

(Sue out)

● Lead off.

Horlepiep

Lead on + lead off

Lead on

Rory + Sheila (2)

(1) Adrian + Sue

Graham (3) + Belinda

sides

Lead off

Walenci

Henry + Jill

(4)

TOP. with backs to music.

Lead on

● Behind out

(as Jesusita except Sue with Oliver + Belinda out)

As A Cota + Jesusita En Chihuahua. Walk on

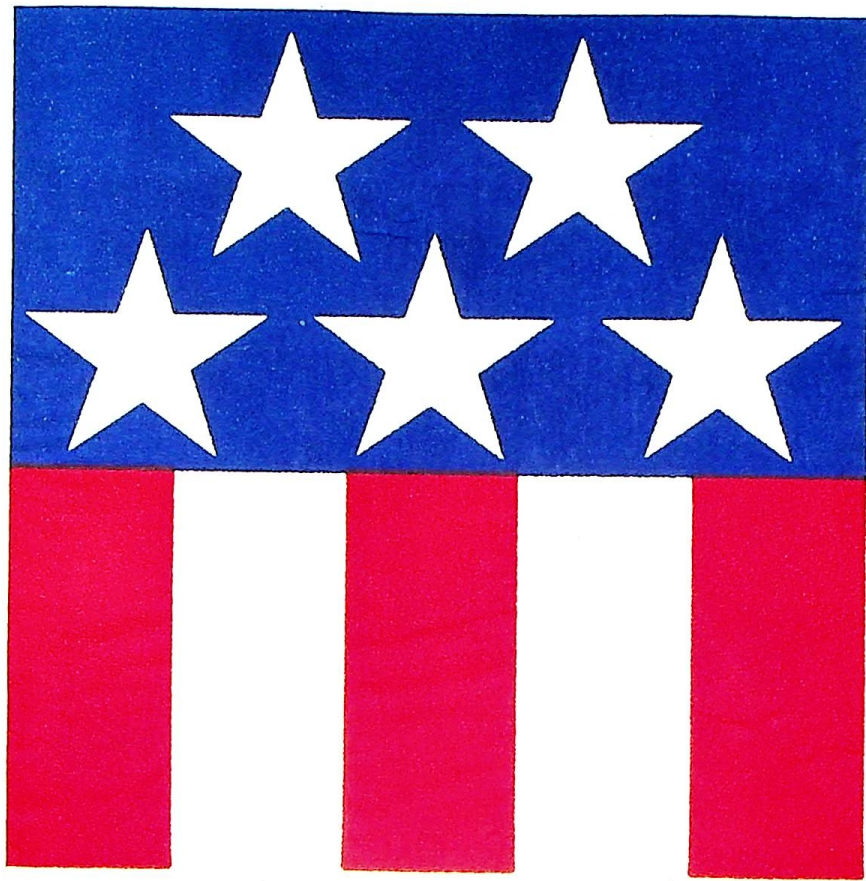
Stay on

Musica Nishwet . All .

Stay on.

Run off at end individually but at the same time!

Club Night. Friday, July 17th 1992



EUGENE M. FOWLER
6212 OAKRIDGE ROAD
SAN DIEGO, CAL. 92120

Last night we said "So long, its been good to know ya" (quoting Woody Guthrie, American folk singer) to Enid and Gene who were visiting our club for the last time during their one year stay on an exchange teaching post in England. We had thought that July 10th was to be their final night with us, so we said our farewells by giving them a present of a tablecloth embroidered with an umbrella by Margery, and then we all danced El Corrida and the Hambo - dances of Gene and Enid's choice.

During the interval last night they gave us

each a slice of the delicious cake they had brought with them, made by Enid, and decorated with the words "Rainmakers 1992". Several group photographs were taken.

We do hope we shall see Enid and Gene again when they next visit England. It has been a pleasure to have their company on many Friday evenings.



The Rainmakers say "au revoir" to Enid and Gene Fowler before they return to the U.S.A. Jill is holding the cake made by Enid.

International Dance Display

BY

The Rainmakers International Dance Group

Saturday 18th July 1992



We meet most Fridays in Letchworth ,Hertfordshire.

For more information phone: 0462 455711



This display consists of 4 groups of dances :

1. Dutch

Baanopstekker

De Horlepiep

De Vlegerd or Smiet Oe Wief Weg

Ys Wals

2. Mixed

Tancuj (Czechoslovakia)

Kreuz Koenig (Germany)

Untersteirer Landler (Austria)

Sadala Polka (Estonia)

La Bastringue (Quebec)

3. Mixed

Walenki (Russia)

Trekarls Polska (Sweden)

Schottische Degli Ombrelli (Italy)

Parsons Farewell (England)

Jarabe Tapatío (Mexico)

4. Israeli

Hava Nagila

Shiru Hashir

Machar

Hashual

Musica Nisheret

The Rainmakers Folkdance Group is affiliated to the Society for International Folk Dancing who promulgate folk dancing in the United Kingdom.

For more information phone : 0923 251528



Hannah and Janie at the Victoria
Embankment Gardens. July 18th 1992

The Victoria Embankment Gardens. July 18th 1992

It was lovely to walk down to the Gardens in my lunch break at an OU lecture day at the National Portrait Gallery to arrive & see the Rainmakers in action. They were performing a lively version of 'Los Bastrajis' with Dave Gardner roped in. The footwork sounded great on that floor and the mixed costumes looked very attractive.

Dave then did a singing spot which was visually (I don't know about aurally) enhanced by the Rainmakers backing group. Dave was in free form. The next mixed spot (a dancing (spot 3 I missed the Dutch spot 1)) looked very nice and it was strange to think that last year Belinda had been sitting in the audience watching me dance the Mexican Flat Dance whilst this year Jessie was in the pushchair next to me (ruined by Judy)

watching Belinda dance. (Actually I tell a lie, I think
Jessie was asleep which was a pity because she
missed some good dancing and hot ^{the latter by Graham} throwing.) Dave
did some more singing (some unaccompanied + some
with guitar) whilst the Rainmakers gradually
reappeared as a new backing group in blue + white
Israeli costumes. The latter looked very
attractive but I think the ladies should wear
slips under their 'see-through' dresses - some of the
audience might disagree!

The Israeli spot rolled along with 'Musica
Niskout' making a happy end to the show
which was conceived, rehearsed and organised
by Belinda - well done Belinda it was a
lovely show (+ thanks to Martin shut in that
room working the tapes). Congratulations to
all the dancers.

Liz Branson.

Friday 24th July 1992

The Rainmakers at the Victoria Embankment gardens

On Saturday 18th July the Rainmakers met in Stevenage to go to London. Graham had hired a mini bus to get there. We were dancing in the Victoria Embankment gardens. We got there at about half past eleven. We were dancing at half past twelve so we had some lunch. Next we got changed. Belinda had planned a very varied programme including three costume changes. There were four spots fifteen minutes split by singing. Spot one was Dutch with a slight hiccup when the wrong side of the tape was played for Vleegerd which went through two and a half times instead of the expected once! Spot two needed a quick change into mixed costumes for a group of dances ranging from Europe to North America. No hiccups this time! Spot three continued the mixed theme no costume change. The dances were ranging from Europe to Central America this time. Spot four involved the 3rd costume change into Israeli with a mixture of line and circle dances. When we had finished we got changed and finished off our lunches. Then most of us went on a boat tour to Greenwich we didn't have time to get off, so we just went there and back. When we got back it was time to go back to Stevenage. (After hours of practising it seemed as though the spots were over in minutes although we started at 12.30 p.m. and didn't finish until 2 p.m.) P.S. I'm glad I danced.

By Hannah.

THE RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP

NEWSLETTER No. 3

JULY 1992

Rainmakers is a club that exists to enjoy folkdancing from all over the world. We meet most Fridays at 8.00 pm in St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire.

For further information contact : Margery (Chair.) 0438 355254 Belinda (Sec.) 0462 455711

Future Events

RAINMAKERS



CONGRATULATIONS

to Sue and Adrian

on their forthcoming marriage on the 31st July



- | | | |
|----------------|------|---|
| 31st July | 7.30 | Garden Evening at Sue and Adrian's - Woodside, Todds Green, Stevenage |
| 7th August | 7.30 | Garden Evening ? ^{Moya's} phone: Margery or Belinda above |
| 14th August | 7.30 | Garden Evening at Terry's - 7 Boot Lane, Dunton. Nr. Biggleswade phone :0767 312275 |
| 21st August | 7.30 | Garden Evening ? ^{Clive's, 26 Lawrence Avenue, Letchworth.} phone: Margery or Belinda above |
| 28th August | 7.30 | Garden Evening at ^{Peter & Tilly - Red Gables, Benslow Park, Hitchin.} Martin and Belinda's - 2 Raymond Villas, Upper Green, Ickleford |
| 6th September | 7.00 | Rainmakers hosting the S.I.F.D. dance at Cecil Sharp House, London |
| 26th September | 8.00 | Rainmakers Anniversary Dance at Ickleford Village Hall |
| 26th September | 3.30 | Rainmakers Demo. at Arthritis Care Club, Westmill Community Centre, Hitchin |

OTHER ORGANISATIONS

- | | | |
|--------------|------------|--|
| 20th Sept. | 10.45-1.00 | Roundabouts Welsh Workshop at Offley Village Hall |
| | 2.00-4.25 | |
| 3rd October | 7.30 | Staplers Anniversary Dance at Westmill Community Centre, Hitchin |
| 11 October | 10-12.30 | Staplers Rapper Workshop at Offley Village Hall |
| | 2.00-4.30 | |
| 16th October | 7.00 | S.I.F.D. International Barndance at Cecil Sharp House, London |

Links from Past to Present with Gordon

It was in 1976 that after joining Staplers, I thought I recognised this chap. At that time he had quite a prolific beard which helped to disguise him even more. Anyway, after introducing myself to him and his wife, we both realised we knew each other but couldn't think where.

Eventually after questioning particular events in our lives, International Dancing was mentioned and all became clear. His name was Gordon Stacey and way back in the late '40s we were both members of the S.I.F.D.

Although we were members of different clubs we both danced every Sunday at the Inns of Court Mission in Drury Lane, London,

and also at the 1st Sunday in the month dance at Cecil Sharp House. (yes even then !)

Whilst we were discussing these facts about each other, my wife Renee happened to be talking to another recently joined member of Staplers by name of Jill Bransby who commented on how hot I became when dancing. Renee replied "You should see him when dancing International" (not a pretty sight ! - Ed.)

Jill then announced that she was also an international dancer and was considering starting a group locally.

Thus Gordon and Dalphine, Jill and Peter, Renee and myself

founded the dance group that we now know as the Rainmakers.

Well Gordon, we have all come a long way over the last 16 years and the Rainmakers have a lot to thank you for ; including your hard work at the inception of the club and later your expertise in assistance with dances, especially Swedish, over the years.

I am sure everybody will join me in wishing you well in your retirement.

Keep those feet tapping!

Roy Bowtell

ST. ANDREWS DISPLAY TUESDAY 14th APRIL

Wind and rain battered the outside of St. Andrews Sheltered Accommodation for the elderly whilst inside the residents extended a warm welcome to the dozen members of the Rainmakers who had arrived to entertain them.

Acting as MC for the evening Belinda introduced the first half of her display program, which included Neapolitan Tarantella, Tzahalat Chassidim and Sadala Polka ; in between which some of the residents were invited to join in and walk through and then dance first Branle de Connay then Nigouno Shel Yossi.

At the end of the first half of the display we were offered refreshments

from an appetizing communal buffet, plus a wide variety of drinks. Both were readily accepted.

During the interval we chatted to the residents, taking the opportunity to thank them for the refreshments and showing them our multinational costumes at close quarters.

The second half of the evening opened in fine style with Terry's rendition of a song telling how a raunchy collier took advantage of a young girl while still wearing his pit-boots!

Display dances followed including Kreutz Koenig, Karapyet and Untersteirer Landler plus join in spots for the Mexican Waltz and Walenki,

both of which were well supported .

A hall fitted with heavy carpet tiles and central heating may not be ideal conditions for international dance but this did not detract from the residents nor the dancers enjoyment - an all round successful evening.

Many thanks to all involved, especially Belinda for her coaching and organisation.

Graham

COSTUME CORNER

NEW ISRAILI DRESS

Since the State of Israel only came into existence in 1948, Israeli dance groups have no traditional dance costumes to wear when performing their dances, which are modern. The girls' dresses may have fitted bodices and wide skirts or may be loose and flowing, while the men wear loose caftan type shirts. The one common factor is that the sleeves are wide, and the whole costume has a lightness about it; this effect is emphasised by the bare feet of the dancers. There are two common colour schemes - the white

and blue of the Israeli flag and the "earth" colours of the desert and vegetation.

When we needed costumes for the 1979 Hitchin Gathering, we chose the white and blue colour scheme and copied the style of the dresses from a photo of Israeli dancers. Now the time has come to think about new costumes, and this time we are going to have a loose fitting princess style with a contrasting sash, in the earth colours (beige, sand, brown, gold and deep green). The mens' shirts will

be in the same style as before, but in the new colour scheme.

I have prepared a master-pattern, for the dress and also have the original shirt pattern, so why not think about making your new costume now. You never know when you may need it (and it is a comfortable costume to wear on party nights) .

Isabel

FROM THE EDITOR

Three articles this issue is a record ! Many thanks to the contributors - I look forward to receiving many more articles, letters, criticisms, even advertisements - don't worry about spelling, this machine has a spelchequer.

Happy writing

Terry

End of Term Party. July ^{24th} 1992

Requests.

- Lublin Polka (2s)
Marushka (2s)
Machar (3s)
Chiapanarecas (2s)
Alexandrovsky (2s)
Quatre Peits de Falanx A Puzo (2x5)
Ys wals (2s)
Jesuisita En Chikoban (2s)
Rennigen (2x8)
Roshor Polka (2s)
Kreuz Koenig (2x2) ← Meioneta = Class 2x4.
Hambos (2s)
Joc de Learyne (line)
Steppin Out (on own)
Jota Antigua (2s)
Maori Slide Dance (2s)
Taramella Rivivisi (2x2) x 3 or 4
Nikolos (line)
El Corrida (2s)
Dans Sa Sucitoave (on own)
Deux, Deux, Deux (2s)
Karamfil (circle)
Vrapcheto (line)
Polonez (2s)

If any extra time I will add in a few Israeli circles
Mellionen (Welsh dance)

Almost the full complement of Rainmakers' membership appeared at St. Michael's Hall for the last official meeting of the term. Most were wearing a variety of international costumes and this added to the party atmosphere.

I thought that the programme of dances devised by Jill, and including a few requests (some of which we could not remember properly!) was one of the most enjoyable of the year.

During the interval for refreshments Terry showed video films of the Hitchin Gathering and the Dutch dancing display at Van Hague's Garden Centre, made by Martin earlier this year. It is always interesting - and amusing, to see ourselves.

Before dancing began again everyone gathered round two of our long standing active club members, Sue and Adrian, to convey our good wishes to them on their forthcoming marriage. On behalf of the club and its members, Margery and Belinda presented them with several presents.

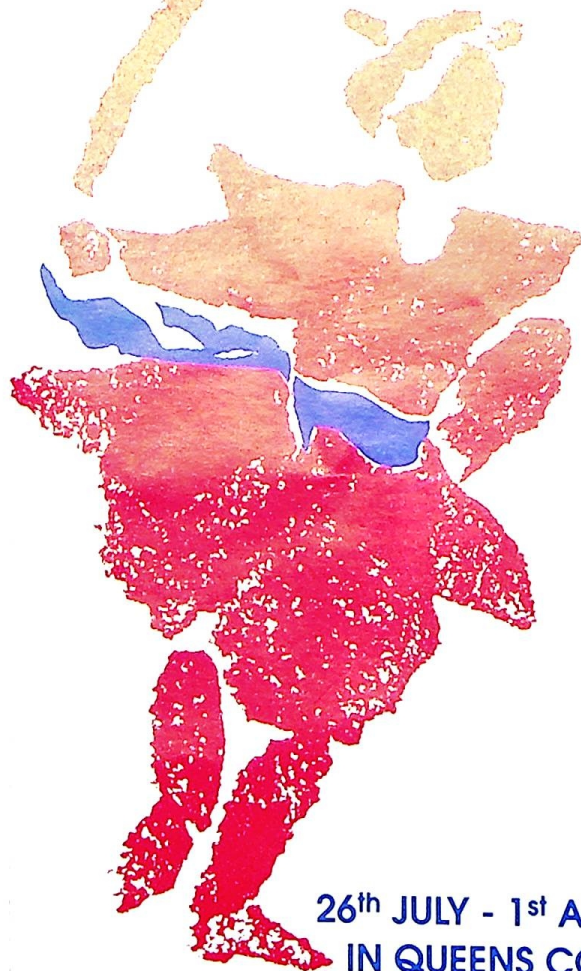
Jill was thanked for all her hard work on our behalf and then we continued dancing until after 10.30 p.m.

Some of us will meet again at various Garden Evenings during August, at the S.I.F.D. Summer School in York, at Sidmouth Folk Festival and so on.

The next club evening will be on Friday, September 4th 1992.

Monday, 27th July 1992.

MILTON KEYNES
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL 1992



26th JULY - 1st AUGUST
IN QUEENS COURT

A week of song, music and dance
by performers from all over Europe

When an International Folk Festival is happening within reasonably easy reach of one's home town it is a pity if members of an international folk dancing club cannot take advantage of it. Unfortunately the one

MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

FOLK ART

The Festival Performers



RUSSIA

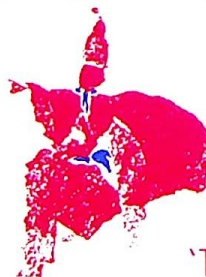
'YEMELIA' RUSSIAN CAROUSEL

The performers in 'Yemelia' present the folklore of southern Russia with original songs and dances from different regions and villages. They play traditional folk Russian instruments and wear original 19th Century costumes. Their routines include traditional Russian folk celebrations of Easter and Christmas as well as spring carnival celebrations and wedding rituals. In their performances they use puppets and costume characters representing Russian Fairy Tale characters. All the performers are professionals and have presented their unique art all over the world.

BULGARIA

FOLK DANCE COMPANY - 'RITMI'

The company was formed several years ago in Sophia to preserve the folk dance traditions of Bulgaria. All the performers are amateurs from all walks of life, including employers and workers as well as students. They are all dedicated, and devote their free time to their singing and dancing to keep alive the most popular Bulgarian songs and ring dances. The dancers are accompanied by a band playing



SPAIN

'TUNA de MEDICINA'

This is a folk group with a difference. It consists of a troupe of 30 young Spanish men who will serenade the beautiful 'senoritas' of Milton Keynes. They are all from Badajoz University and the 'Tuna' was established in 1974 to preserve this very old Spanish tradition. Their costumes date back to the 16th Century and the capes of the young men are decorated with colourful flowing ribbons. According to tradition the ribbons on the cape relate to the numbers of ladies they have wooed. Almost all of the 'Tuna' songs are based on love stories between boys and girls, and the group have proved very popular at folk festivals throughout the world.

GERMANY

'RICHARD WISSIDLO'

The folk dance group 'Richard Wissidlo' was founded in

1963 and they take their name from a famous local poet of the Mecklenburg area of Germany.

The whole ensemble, which includes a children's dance group, comes from the community of Ribnitz-Damgarten and they perform the traditional songs and dances of the peasants and fishermen of the Mecklenburg region.

Recently they have performed in Canada, Denmark and Greece and have won many international awards.



POLAND

'WARMIA'



Like many dance and song groups in Eastern Europe 'Warmia' are closely linked to the company where many of them work - in this case the Polish Railway Company.

From Olsztyn in Poland, the Troupe's repertoire includes the song and dance of the Varmian and Masurian regions as well as other areas of Poland. In the 35 years since they were formed, the high quality of 'Warmia' has been recognised nationally and internationally

with many appearances on television. They have also been featured in documentary films and have released an acclaimed recording of their singing.

FESTIVAL PERFORMANCES

SUNDAY 26th JULY

GALA OPENING NIGHT 6.30 - 9.30pm

Procession followed by a concert featuring all the guest performers plus - 2 local Morris Sides and music from Cock and Bull.

MONDAY 27th JULY

EVENING CONCERT 7.30 - 9.30pm

Featuring 'Richard Wossidlo' from Germany and the performers from Poland and Spain.

TUESDAY 28th JULY

EVENING CONCERT 7.30 - 9.30pm

Featuring 'Warmia' from Poland and the performers from Bulgaria and Spain.

WEDNESDAY 29th JULY

EVENING CONCERT 7.30 - 9.30pm

Featuring the 'Yemelia' Russian Carousel, and the performers from Germany and Spain.

THURSDAY 30th JULY

EVENING CONCERT 7.30 - 9.30pm

Featuring the 'Ritmi' Bulgarian folk dance company from Sophia, and the performers from Russia plus local Morris Sides.

FRIDAY 31st JULY

GALA CONCERT 7.30 - 10.00pm

Featuring all the guest performers from Russia, Bulgaria, Spain, Germany and Poland.

SATURDAY 1st AUGUST

FESTIVAL FINALE 7.30 - 10.00pm

A concert featuring all the guest performers. Presentations to guest artists, followed by Dancing-for-all with music from Cock and Bull.

TICKETS - £5.00 (£4) UNRESERVED SEATING
£1.50 (£1) STANDING

OTHER FESTIVAL HIGHLIGHTS

Throughout the festival week lots more will be taking place for everyone to join in.

Friday 31st July is **CHILDRENS DAY** in Queens Court when the Warwick Road Childrens Centre will host a day packed with things for children to see and do. Fun starts at 10am and carries on until 4pm. **Admission is FREE** and a special attraction will be a performance by a childrens dance team from Germany.

Childrens Dance Workshops will be held daily in Queens Court on 28th, 29th, 30th and 31st July from **11am - 12 noon**. Admission is FREE and each session will be led by a different guest team.



Evening dance workshops will be held in the City Church on Monday 27th, Tuesday 28th and Wednesday 29th July. These will be hosted by Bulgarian, Russian and Polish dance leaders. These workshops have been organised in conjunction with the **Regional Dance Council** and will cost £3.00 (£2) each. Maximum numbers will be limited to 100. All adults and older children are very welcome.

Late Night Extras will be held at the **Festival Club** in the Guildhall in the City Church from Monday July 27th to Saturday 1st August every night from 10.00pm until late.

These late nights will feature impromptu performances and will give you the chance to socialise with the guest groups and your friends, in an informal atmosphere. There will be a bar available* and a membership fee to cover all six evenings is only £1.00.

PLUS - Many of the hotels in the area who are generously providing accommodation and food for the international artistes are planning their own special evenings. Their overseas guests will sing and dance for their supper and provide FREE entertainment for you. These include the **Wayfarer** at Willen Lake, the **Woughton House Hotel**, and the **Milton Keynes Hotel and Conference Centre**. Contact the hotels direct for information.

*bar license has been applied for

at Milton Keynes co-incides with many people's holidays. Henry and I decided that we could just fit in the Monday evening performances before we set off for Sidmouth in the week of July 27th. Isabel was able to come along too.

This year the dancing performances were being held, not in a theatre or a marquee but in the middle of the shopping centre which has a garden and a fountain in the middle of it. One end had been temporarily roofed over and a stage erected. Parking was nearby, easy and free. We met a group of S.I.F.D. members we knew from London (including Frances Horrocks) who were on their way to a Balkan Dance Workshop in a church, given by the Bulgarian team. Many workshops and joining-in sessions were to be held this year.

On the leaflet you will see "Standing £1.50". This means sitting on the wall of the fountain and garden from which you would get a very good view of the show. We did not know this and had paid for seats in advance - just as well as it was a chilly night.

First of all we were entertained by a large group of dancers from Mecklenburg in Germany. They wore the very attractive costumes of their region and performed traditional dances and songs of that area. There were actually three groups within the team - a children's team,

a team of very energetic, agile dancers aged about eighteen to thirty and a team of much older people. They were all very good dancers, well rehearsed and performing dances suitable to their ages. They all seemed full of enthusiasm and happiness, which was catching. The small audience really warmed to them.

Next we saw dances by a group from Poland. They are all employees of a Polish railway company. They danced and sang very well but somehow I did not enjoy their spot as much as I would have hoped to. They wore traditional costumes made of the traditional material but they did not fit them properly and I found this irritating.

The surprise of the evening was the Spanish Band. Its members were from the medical faculty of Badajoz University. They played various guitars, accordions, ^{drums} and very tiny tambourines. They wore costumes of black velvet, copied from 16th Century ones, and these included doublet and hose and large capes with bunches of ribbons on the back of them. The number of bunches denoted the number of young ladies the young men had wooed. One member of the team carried a flag which he expertly flourished and threw into the air from time to time. The mini tambourine players also came forward during the singing to give an

elaborate display that included rolling on the floor. (not like the Salvation Army!) We were most amused by the way the band leader started his group off on each song or tune by banging on his knees with his little tambourine.

By this time the Germans and Poles had joined us in the audience and were cheering and clapping wildly.

After a short interval whilst electricians persuaded the lights to come back on, the Germans returned to entertain us again.

Altogether we found it a very jolly evening. It is a pity the audience was not bigger and that more Rainmakers could not be there.

N.B. I have just heard that Hilary and Jim went on the Sunday. They went to a show and a workshop with the Polish team. The Poles taught Oberek. How ambitious!

I hope Hilary and Jim enjoyed themselves

Garden Evenings 1992.

It is unusual for Rainmakers to try to run five Garden Evenings during the Summer break but this year the committee decided that it would try it as so few people were going away on holiday at the same time - to Sidmouth for instance. I had to miss the first three evenings but I have heard very good accounts of them all.

Friday, July 31st (signed up for by Adrian) proved to be part of Adrian and Sue's wedding party held in the garden of Sue's parents at Todd's Green. As you can see from Isabel's photograph and report, it was a very happy occasion.

Friday, August 7th - the hostess was Moya at her home in Letchworth. I heard that fourteen members went along, nine men and five women. This meant that all the ladies had male partners for a change and they danced every dance. The spare men even danced together. I gather that a great time was had by all.

Friday, August 14th - the host was Terry. Despite a day of unsettled weather the Garden Evening was still held in Terry's garden at Duntton. A lot of people went along and they managed to dance on the terrace mostly, as the grass was wet. This was another success.

Friday, August 21st - held in the garden of 26, Lawrence Avenue, Letchworth at the

invitation of Clive. So many people were back from holidays etc. that we could have had a hall. About twenty-eight of us had a good time on a warm, fine evening, leaping about or sitting chatting until we were shepherded indoors at about 9.00 p.m.

Friday, August 28th - the Garden Evening was transferred from Martin and Belinda's home to Peter and Jill's in Hitchin.

The weather had been unsettled all week and we fully expected to hear that it had been cancelled altogether. However, thirteen people arrived hopefully, wearing jumpers and jackets and we crunched away, non stop on the gravel drive until well past nine o'clock. Just as we went indoors for refreshments, rain fell, even though we carefully avoided dancing Mayim, Mayim.


These Garden Evenings cause a lot of work for our hosts and hostesses and club members are most grateful to them for having us in their homes and gardens. I think some of their neighbours must be entertained too especially Clive's (a comparatively new member) as they would not know what to expect. Perhaps they feared a rave up was going on!


Friday 31 July 1992



was a special day for the club, when two of our most loyal members, Sue and Adrian, were married. A perfect summer's day ended with an English/International dance in the garden of Sue's childhood home in Todd's Green, with Roy and Gordon as M.C.s, and enjoyed by both Rainmakers and Staplers.




The traditional bridal waltz.



Dear Rainmakers  4 SEPT 1992

Many thanks to you all  for the lovely presents you gave us for our wedding at the end of July.

We had a wonderful day with  so many of our friends from Rainmakers coming along to wish us well, and to join in the dancing in the evening. 

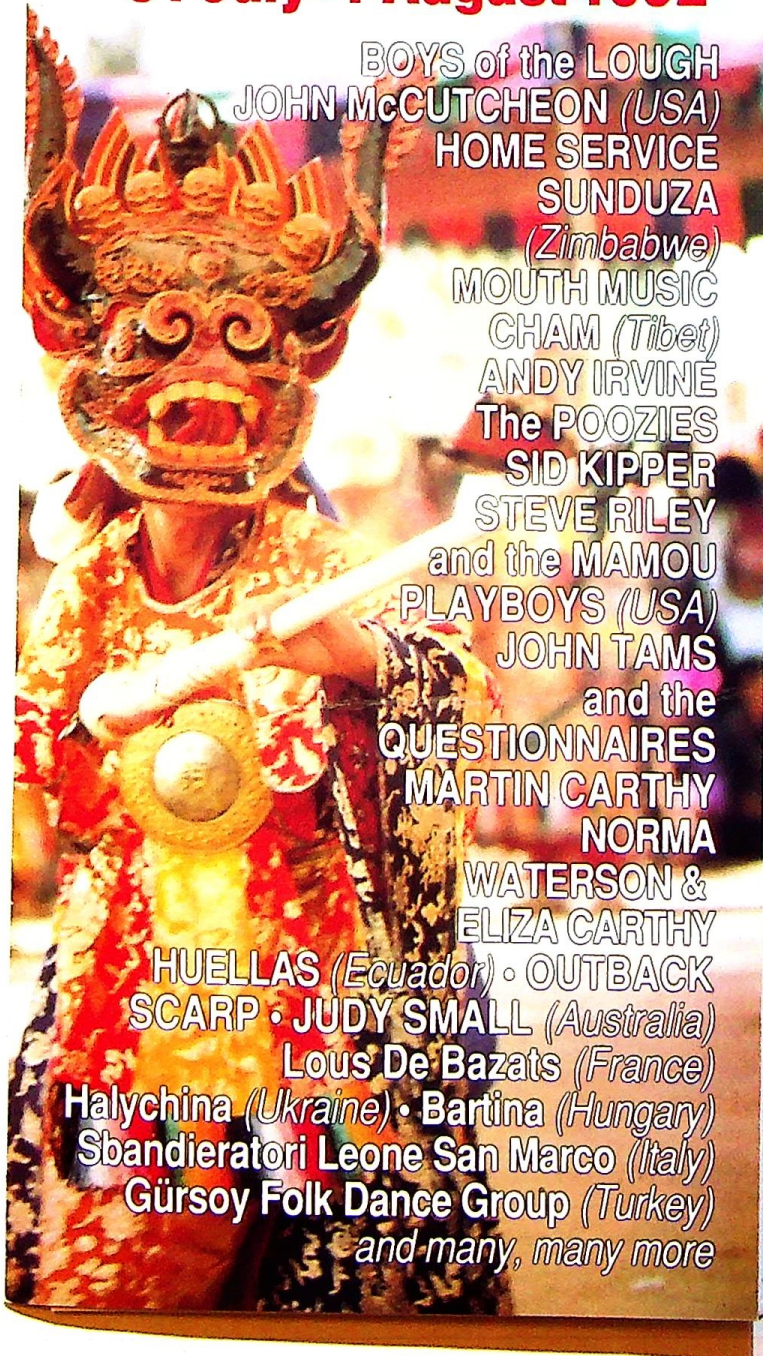
Your choices of presents are much appreciated and will always be a reminder of the day and our friends at Rainmakers. 

See and Advise 

  Thank You

SIDMOUTH - 38th INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL.

38th **Sidmouth** INTERNATIONAL
Festival FOLK
ARTS
31 July - 7 August 1992



BOYS of the LOUGH
JOHN McCUTCHEON (USA)

HOME SERVICE

SUNDUZA

(Zimbabwe)

MOUTH MUSIC

CHAM (Tibet)

ANDY IRVINE

The POOZIES

SID KIPPER

STEVE RILEY

and the MAMOU

PLAYBOYS (USA)

JOHN TAMS

and the

QUESTIONNAIRES

MARTIN CARTHY

NORMA

WATERSON &

ELIZA CARTHY

HUELLAS (Ecuador) • OUTBACK

SCARP • JUDY SMALL (Australia)

Lous De Bazats (France)

Halychina (Ukraine) • Bartina (Hungary)

Sbandieratori Leone San Marco (Italy)

Gürsoy Folk Dance Group (Turkey)

and many, many more

SIDMOUTH FESTIVAL

The worldwide fame of Sidmouth Festival draws singers, dancers, entertainers and musicians from all corners of the earth. For just one week the streets are filled with people enjoying the music and colour as Europe's biggest international folk arts festival come to this small East Devon seaside town.

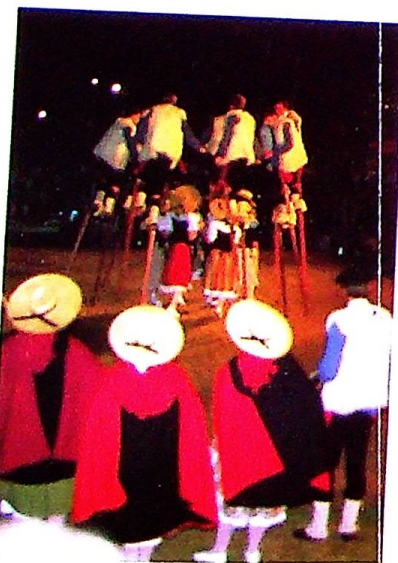
SPECTACULAR ARENA SHOWS

Most of the Festival's day visitors head for our beautiful open-air Arena to see the spectacular international folk dance shows. The overseas dance groups who are with us all week this year are from **Tibet, Turkey, Italy, Hungary, France and Ukraine.**

Cham from Tibet bring us spectacular mask dances and haunting sounds, their costumes a feast of silk and gold reminiscent of the Peking Opera. From Turkey come the **Gürsoy Folk Dance Group**, performing stunning sword and shield dances. The amazing French stilt dancers, **Lous de Bazats**, are back with their breathtaking display of polkas 6 feet from the ground! From Italy we welcome **Sbandieratori Leone San Marco**, a spectacular team of flag throwers, trumpeters and drummers wearing mediaeval costumes. **Bartina**, from Szekszard, Hungary bring us their fast-whirling, all-action dances with richly decorated costumes, and last, but definitely not least, are the high-stepping, fast-flyers of **Halychina** from Ukraine.

The main events at the Arena start at 3pm and 8pm each day, but the site comes to life from around noon when the huge craft fair (admission free) and the wide range of food and drink stands open. There is also a major folk concert most lunchtimes in the Arena Marquee.

Entrance tickets to the Arena allow you to sit on the grass bank, or you can book a deck chair or a seat in the side stands, which also guarantees you admission to the show if it is transferred to the Arena Marquee in the event of wet weather. You qualify for a discount of 10% on Arena tickets if you book before Saturday 25th July, so there are good reasons for booking in advance!



International Shows at 3pm daily

Admission £4.00 (£1.00) £3.60 (90p)
Seating £1.20 £1.10

featuring, among others

Saturday — France, Tibet, Ukraine, Roughshod Appalachian Cloggers, Seven Champions Molly Dancers.

Sunday — Turkey, Tibet, Roughshod Appalachian Cloggers, Handsworth Traditional Longsword Dancers.

Monday — Turkey, Tibet, Ukraine, France, Italy, Hungary.

Tuesday — Ukraine, France, Italy, Seven Champions, Newcastle Cloggies.

Wednesday — Tibet, Turkey, the traditional Dutch dances of Pieremachochel from the Netherlands

Thursday — Turkey, Hungary, Italy, Newcastle Cloggies, Seven Champions, Bantam Cocks.

Friday — Ukraine, Hungary, France, Roughshod Appalachian Cloggers, Rivington Morris.

Prices in (brackets) are for children 7-15. Prices in *italics* are the discounted prices before 25th July. **Party Discount** — a further 10% for groups of 20 or more for all Arena shows except the Grand Finale. For further details please contact the Festival Office.

With acknowledgement to The European Arts Festival, East Devon District Council and Sidmouth Town Council

EVENING SHOWS at 8pm

International Premiere

Friday — A first chance to see all our overseas dance groups.

Admission £4.00 (£1.00) £3.60 (90p)
Seating £1.20 £1.10

SUNDUZA

— from Zimbabwe

Saturday — In Sidmouth for just one day, these 12 dancers and singers from Bulawayo give us the chance to see an exhilarating show of traditional and modern dances including their explosive version of the gumboot dance and the fevensch phantsula straight from the townships. With singing reminiscent of Paul Simon's *Gracelands*, **Sunduza** are not to be missed. *Plus* Turkey, Italy, Rivington Morris.

Admission £5.00 (£2.50) £4.50 (£2.25)
Seating £1.50 £1.35

The Music and Dances of Europe

Sunday — In this European year Sidmouth Festival presents the flag throwers of **Sbandieratori Leone San Marco** from Italy, Hungary's **Bartina**, French stilt dancers **Lous de Bazats** and Ukraine's **Halychina** together with English traditions from Bantam Cocks and Handsworth Longsword Dancers. Admission £4.00 (£1.00) £3.60 (90p). Seating £1.20 £1.10

THE BOYS OF THE LOUGH in Concert

Monday — It's 25 years since the first line-up of The Boys of the Lough came together, so what better way to mark their anniversary than to appear at Sidmouth Arena. Led by **Aly Bain**, Shetland fiddle TV star, they bring us their exhilarating music of the Highlands and Islands with witty repartee, verve and technical brilliance.

Admission £6.00 (£3.00) £5.40 (£2.70).
Seating £1.80 £1.60.



HUELLAS — The Music of Ecuador

Tuesday — Huellas present the haunting traditional panpipes music of their homeland and of the Andes mountains. Stars of WOMAD festivals, their hand-made instruments include a variety of panpipes and the more unusual charangos and quenenas. *Plus* France, Italy, Roughshod Appalachian Cloggers. Admission £5.00 (£2.50) £4.50 (£2.25). Seating £1.50 £1.35.

WWF Gala Night



Wednesday — A special World Wide Fund for Nature Gala Show featuring **Cham** from Tibet, **Bartina** from Hungary, and **Gürsoy Folk Dance Group** from Turkey. The six winning entries in WWF's *Song for Nature Competition* will be presented by **Roy Bailey** and **Martin Carthy**. **Caravanseraï** provide the music and **Seven Champions** the humour. Combine your evening at the Festival with support for WWF, the world's largest conservation organisation. Admission £6.00 (£3.00) £5.40 (£2.70) includes a donation to WWF. Seating £1.80 £1.60.

Halychina — from Ukraine

Thursday — with their high-jumping, fast-flying dancing and exciting music. *Plus* Tibet, Bantam Cocks, Handsworth Longsword Dancers. Admission £6.00 (£3.00) £5.40 (£2.70). Seating £1.80 £1.60.

Grand Finale

Friday — Exciting and exotic farewell performances from our international visitors and British dance teams. Always a popular night, leading into the Torchlight Procession to end the Festival. Admission £7.00 (£3.50) £6.30 (£3.15). Seating £2.00 £1.80.



BOX OFFICE

0395 515134

OVER 600 EVENTS!

Many of the Festival's day visitors only get to see our beautiful open air Arena with its the spectacular international folk dance shows, but Sidmouth Festival also includes nearly 700 events in about 30 other venues including four large marquees, the cinema, church, theatre and several smaller halls and pub rooms. As well as concerts by major folk and roots artistes, dances and ceilidhs, there are many smaller, more intimate events like singarounds and storytelling sessions as well as workshops on a staggering range of topics.

For further details get the

SOUVENIR PROGRAMME

on sale 1st July, £1.70 (£2.00 inc p & p) from The Festival Office, 6 East Street, Sidmouth, Devon EX10 8BL. Phone 0395 515134

ACCESS & VISA ACCEPTED



38th **Sidmouth Festival** INTERNATIONAL FOLK ARTS
31 July - 7 August 1992



Manor Pavilion Evening Shows

The Wren Trust bring us *The Ballad of Newtown*, a Radio Ballad style drama based on Newtown in Exeter (Saturday). *Endangered Species* premiered their *Toipuddle Man* production at Sidmouth in 1990, this year they're back with their sequel *The Last of England* (Sunday). *Stepping Out on Monday* is a variety clogging show featuring Newcastle Cloggies, Pat Tracey, Roughshod Appalachian Cloggers and Ilfracombe Cloggies and hosted by Chipolatas. *In the Tradition* is the theme for Tuesday with The Shepherds, Len Graham & John Campbell, Packie Byrne, Will Noble and Hamish Henderson, among others. *No advance booking*

A POOR MAN'S HOUSE

Wednesday 5th August, 3pm & 8pm
Thursday 6th August, 6pm & 8.30pm

Advance booking available for all concerts until Saturday 25th July. Season/day ticket holders get priority of admission until 10 minutes before concert starts. Admission £5.00 (£2.50)

A new play by Tim Laycock adapted from Stephen Reynolds' book *A Poor Man's House*, set amongst the Sidmouth fishing community in 1907. The production will move from pre-Festival work within the community in Sidmouth to a week of rehearsals and performances with Festival-goers and guests. Details of the production and opportunities for involvement are available from the Festival Office.



Afternoon Shows at the Manor Pavilion

Mike Jackson's *Roaring Days* — poems and songs of 19th Century Australia (Sunday), *Storytellers in Concert* (Monday), and *Irish Traditions in Concert* (Thursday). *No advance booking*

Ceilidhs

8pm at the Ham Marquee

Join Gas Mark 5 and Mary Panton on Saturday evening to get the week off to a hot start. Sunday brings us The Old Hat Dance Band with caller Dave Hunt. Florida provide energetic music for a boogie-on-down ceilidh on Monday and Peeping Tom and Hugh Rippon return to the Ham on Tuesday. *Cock & Bull* with caller Bob Adams make Wednesday night. Thursday is *Grand Family Ceilidh* night with Peeping Tom and Dr Sunshine while Rod Stradling's Feckless round off the week with Gordon Potts on Friday. *No advance booking.*

Peeping Tom



Late Night Extra — 11pm at the Bowd Marquee

Season & day ticket holders only
Late Night Extras kick off on Saturday with The Chris Wood & Andy Cutting Band and Hugh Rippon. Sunday brings us Scarp with various ex-Blowzabellians in their new guise. Monday is The Old Hat Dance Band night with Dave Hunt and Tuesday is a double feature with Florida and caller Mick Brooks plus Bearcat Cajun Playboys. Eddie Upton joins Peeping Tom on Wednesday and Rod Stradling's Feckless and Gordon Potts join forces on Thursday. *Cock & Bull* with Bob Adams bring the week to a close on Friday.



Wood & Cutting

Drill Hall Ceilidhs — 8pm every evening

Among the special evenings planned for the Drill Hall this year are an *Irish Ceili Night*, *The Haddiscoe May Do*, with Sid Kipper and Katie's Quartet and a *Northumbrian Evening* with The Shepherds, Alistair Anderson and caller Pete Coe. *No advance booking.*

Dances

7.30pm at the Bowd Marquee

A week of dances for the more experienced dancer starts on Saturday with an *Anglo-American Evening* with Mark Elvins and Pick 'n' Mix followed on Sunday by a *Pat Shaw Evening* with Charles Bolton and Sound Company. On Monday it's *Playford Plus* with Ian Jones and Cat's Whiskers. Tuesday is *American Night* with Bernard Chalk and Weston Country Dance Band. Wednesday is *Playford Night* with John Lagden and Jim Coleman and Thursday is *Scottish Night* with Andrew Kellett and Sound Company. Bernard Chalk and Weston Country Dance Band have a final fling on Friday night. *No advance booking.*

Family Entertainment

Sidmouth Festival offers a superb week's entertainment for children and families with events from 9.30am-9.30pm every day. Children can join in at a wide range of workshops, including North West morris, rapper and longsword dancing, circus skills, step dancing, music ensemble, puppet making, junior band, photography, harmony singing, handbell ringing, making instruments from junk, etc. Family events include a concert with John McCutcheon, the special Ceilidh in the Ham Marquee with Peeping Tom and Dr Sunshine, Storytelling Sessions, the regular St Francis Hall Ceilidhs, Mike Jackson & Ian Blake's amazing show from Australia and much more. With all these events AND the beach, what more can a family ask for?



The Boys of the Lough

In Concert at The Arena
8pm Monday 3rd August

Admission £6.00 (£3.00). Advance booking discount available — see over for details. A welcome return to Sidmouth after an absence of nine years. Aly Bain (now a TV regular), Cathal McConnell, Dave Richardson, Christy O'Leary & John Coakley bring us the music of Ireland, Scotland, the Islands and Northumbria played with their usual verve and magic. Not to be missed.



Arena Marquee Concerts

12.30pm at the Arena Marquee

Admission £6.60 (£3.30). Advance booking available

HOME SERVICE

Tuesday 4th August

Relaunch of one of the bands of the eighties. The instrumental line-up recently recorded for Hokey Pokey's *All Through the Year* album and they'll be joined by a guest vocalist.



MARTIN CARTHY, NORMA WATERSON & ELIZA CARTHY

Wednesday 5th August
The newest line-up from the legendary Waterson family. As The Watsons take a break, Martin and Norma are joined by their daughter Eliza in an occasional trio.



JOHN McCUTCHEON

Thursday 6th August

Songwriter, singer, multi-instrumentalist, storyteller, harmonica from Virginia, USA. A consummate entertainer.

JOHN TAMS & THE QUESTIONNAIRES

Friday 7th August

John Tams (ex Albion Band, Home Service) on guitar and vocals fronts this semi-electric collective centred on song with Barry Coope (keyboards, vocals) Lester Simpson (melodeon, congas, vocals) and Sam Smith (guitar, synthesizer).

Mrs Prewd's Secrets Explained

SID KIPPER & Friends
Thursday 6th August, 6pm

Admission £6.60 (£3.30). Advance booking available
In this extraordinary presentation, Sid Kipper attempts to explain what was really going on when Mrs Minam Prewd kept her secret diary in St. Just-Near-Trunch in 1904-5.



Bulverton Roots Nights

8pm at the Bulverton Marquee

Admission £6.60. Advance tickets available.

COMPANIONS OF THE ROSY HOURS

Saturday 1st August

From foot stomping Cajun to sizzling Texan Swing. Plus The Railtown Bottlers.

OUTBACK

Sunday 2nd August

The didgeridoo dance experience! Plus Brendan Power.

SCARP — Monday 3rd August

Ex-Blowzabellians in mega-dance band

FRENCH DANCE NIGHT

Tuesday 4th August

Waltzer (Eaton, Cutting & Wood) PLUS Lous de Bazats.

MOUTH MUSIC — Wednesday 5th August

Now a 7 piece band, with a rare celtic tribal mix featuring the vocals of Mairi MacInnes



Outback

Cajun Specials

STEVE RILEY & THE MAMOU PLAYBOYS

Thursday 6th August

DERBY'S SWAMP CLUB comes to Sidmouth bringing superstars from Louisiana plus their own Bearcat Cajun Playboys

LOUISIANA FRIDAY NIGHT

Friday 7th August

featuring Steve Riley, Bearcats and friends.



Radway Concerts

7.30pm at the Radway Cinema

Advance booking available for all evening concerts until Saturday 25th July. Season/day ticket holders get priority of admission until 10 minutes before concert starts. All evening concerts £6.60 (£3.30)

AFTERHOURS

Saturday 1st August

Superb four piece band at the fore of the Celtic revival, featuring the vocals of Alan Burke, the Uilleann pipes and whistles of Tomas Lynch and multi-instrumentalists Giles Lewin and Tim Potts. PLUS Coope, Boyes & Simpson.

THE POOZIES

Sunday 2nd August

All women supergroup featuring the harps of Sileas (Mary Macmaster & Patsy Seddon), Sally Barker (vocals & guitar), Neti Vaandrager (fiddle) and Karen Tweed (accordion). PLUS Catriona Macdonald



The Poozies

MARTIN CARTHY + SID KIPPER

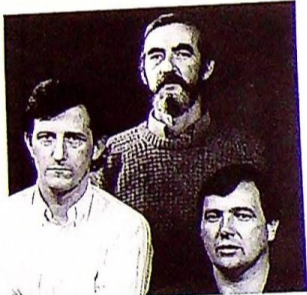
Monday 3rd August

Solo sets from two luminaries of the British Folk Scene. Martin, the acknowledged master, and Sid, the Rising Son now breaking free of his family and pursuing a successful career in his own right.

PERJURING LITTLE WHORE

Tuesday 4th August

An exciting new work based on the story of Fanny Blair composed by ex-Blowzabella member Jo Freya and performed by an all women band brought together especially for the project — Jo Freya, Kathryn Locke, Annie Williamson, Becky Palmer & Anke Meinburg. Jo & Kathryn begin the evening with their duo set. *The Voice Squad*



RAY & CILLA FISHER + THE VOICE SQUAD

Wednesday 5th August

All-star evening featuring two of Scotland's finest — the singing sisters from the famous family of folk. The Voice Squad are Phil Callery, Fran McPhail and Gerry Cullen, singing the songs of Ireland in three part harmony. PLUS Fritot from Sweden (Lena Willemark, Ale Möller, Per Gudmunsen) and Chris Wood.

JOHN McCUTCHEON + JUDY SMALL

Thursday 6th August

John, from Virginia, USA, is a singer, storyteller, multi-instrumentalist and songwriter par excellence, renewing his musical acquaintance with Australian singer-songwriter Judy Small, many would say the hit of last year's Festival. PLUS Sandra Kerr, Eliza Carthy & Nancy Kerr.



Judy Small

ANDY IRVINE

Friday 7th August

Founder member of Planxty and Patrick Street, a consummate performer whose material ranges from the traditional music of Ireland to Woody Guthrie, from the music of Eastern Europe to modern compositions.

3pm Concerts at the Radway Cinema

No advance booking

Featuring Beyond the Pale plus Tom McConville on Sunday, Scarp plus The Rhythm Rascals on Monday, Music of Europe Concert on Tuesday, Cock & Bull plus Wizz Jones on Wednesday, Alistair Anderson on Thursday and Steve Riley and the Mamou Playboys from Louisiana plus Pete Coe on Friday.

European Broadcasting Union

Many of the featured artistes in the Radway concerts this year are brought to us by the 13th European Broadcasting Union Contemporary Folk Music Festival. The annual EBU Festival takes place in a different country each year and the members 'donate' a solo artiste or group who is recorded by the host, in this case BBC Radio 2. The recordings are then made available to EBU members. This is a great opportunity for us to hear live music from Europe. Among the EBU guests appearing are Fritot (Sweden), Kwartet Jorgi (Poland), Malév-Kamaras (Hungary), Tallari (Finland), The Reiti Musig (Switzerland), Stubseid & Möller (Norway), Prüss, Meyering, Leisz & Schmedeke (Germany), Paul Rans (Belgium) and Baldrrian (Denmark). British EBU representatives include BBC Radio 2 *Young Tradition Award* winners Catriona Macdonald and Ingrid Henderson as well as Ray & Cilla Fisher, Alistair Anderson and Chris Wood.



The Reiti Musig