



RAINMAKERS'
SCRAPBOOK
VOLUME 14
1995 ~ 1996

Volume 14

The

Rainmakers'

Scrapbook

From

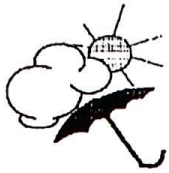
September 1995

To

August 1996

Cover Picture: -

Rainmakers dancing at Letchworth's
Christmas Carnival. December 9th 1995



THE RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP



NEWSLETTER No. 11

Sept. 1995

Rainmakers is a club that exists to enjoy folkdancing from all over the world.

We meet most Fridays in St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, at 20.00 hrs.

For further information contact: Belinda (Chair.) 01462 455711
or Mark (Sec.) 01462 454210

Calendar of Events

DISPLAYS

- Sat. 9th Sept. International Dance at Harlington Village Hall
20.00-23.45 hrs. Caller : Jill Bransby, Music: Cloudburst, Display: Rainmakers!
- Sat. 30th Sept SIFD / CCPR Display at the Albert Hall - with the Rainmakers!

DANCES

- Sat. 14th Oct. Club Anniversary Dance at Ickleford Village Hall , £5.00/4.00
19.30-23.00 Caller : Jill Bransby with music by Jacobs Ladder
- Sat. 21st Oct. Day Course at Central Methodist Church Hall , Letchworth
11.00-16.00 hrs.
- Fri. 17th Nov. Teacher at Club - Audrey Whiteley
- Sun. 3rd Dec. SIFD Dance hosted by the Rainmakers at C.S.H.
19.00-22.00 hrs.

Try an evening in London, S.I.F.D. Dance.
Six Rainmakers were there on 3/9/95.

S I F D

Cecil Sharp House

Sunday 3rd September
1995.

● Come dance with us
and the Geud Man of
Ballangigh with a
Trip to Bavaria and
an Adventure at
Margate

● Hugh Wood
Interval Dances selected
by Jeanette Hull

—o~o—

Sybil's Roundabout
Farwel Marion
Trip to Bavaria
Ssolaam Yakov
Sanfentenberget
Mellem Kagel og ae vae
Indo Eu
Fyrtur
De Vleeghent
Karamfil
Lavra
Steinregger
Hnie Lenu Nigun Yesh
La Bootee Croissee
Sicilian Tarantella
Hora Femeilor
Linechka Polka
An Adventure at Margate
Hora Din Casa
En Atlant aux Chataignes
Waters of Holland

Interval Dances

Beanopstekker
Jesosita en Chihuahua
Geud man of Ballangigh
Hora Zemer
El Corrido
Levi Jackson's Rag
Pera Stovs Rambos
Sadala Polka
A Chula
Makazice
Eisvalset
La Bootee a six de Biantes
Ba Pardess
Kak Ri Balkje
De Kolom
Ridee de Baud
La Bastringue
Dotset 4 hand Reel
Tcherkessia Kfola
Zagrodnik
Tzadik Katamar

—o~o—

Notice what a lot of dances on this programme
are in the Rainmakers' repertoire.

S.I.F.D. monthly dances at Cecil Sharp House
Regents Park Road cost £3, members of S.I.F.D. £3-50
others.



Jill, with Cloudburst Band at Haslington.
September 9th 1995



Saturday 9th September '95.
Rainmakers at Harlington
near Luton & Barton le Clay.

Event No.5

Saturday 9 September

Grand Folk Dance

Local band *Cloudburst* with caller *Jill Bransby* will provide an evening of music and dancing with an international flavour for your enjoyment and participation. Respite from exhaustion will be provided by members of the *Rainmakers International Folk Dance Club*, who will be demonstrating folk dance from other countries. A fish and chip supper is included in the ticket price, but please bring your own drinks.

£5.50/£5.00/£5.00/£4.50

8.00 pm in the Village Hall, Sundon Road

The village of Harlington, Beds. holds a festival lasting a fortnight in the early Autumn every year. The drummer in Cloudburst Band, Dave Rutherford, lives in Harlington. He also runs an English folk dancing club so it was not surprising that he asked Jill to run a Folk Dance as part of the festival with Cloudburst providing the music. It was decided that it should be an International Barn Dance. This meant a lot of work for Jill as she had to organise the band, the public and the Rainmakers who were to provide displays of International dancing from time to time. All this came straight on top of Jill and Peter's holiday. The Candle Dance was requested as part of the proceedings so a rehearsal was held in early August.

Twenty Rainmakers made their way to the pretty village of Harlington, admiring

a beautiful sunset as we went along.

Conditions inside the hall were cramped as tables had been put out all around the room, with eight chairs around each. We heard that seventy tickets had been sold. However it was a more modern hall than we expected and the welcome was warm - as well as the evening.

The band was soon ready, the people came crowding in so, promptly at eight o'clock Jill began her programme of easy International dances, interspersed with display dances by the Rainmakers. Those Rainmakers who were in the displays wore their green German costumes, or diamond dresses or Italian costumes. You will see from my cutting from the Harlington Festival programme that it says "Respite from exhaustion will be provided by the Rainmakers --- who will be demonstrating folk dances from other countries".

It was the Rainmakers who needed respite from exhaustion as they danced virtually every dance. However, the people of Harlington joined in with a will and it was all great fun. Respite came at about 9.30 p.m. when a fish and chip supper was delivered. It was also time to change into Italian costumes.

During the second half of the evening Graham and Clive gave a very energetic display of the Ox Dances. One of Clive's socks gradually fell down, then the other, then the tail of his shirt came out. The audience

were roaring with laughter at their realistic punches and slaps. At rehearsal the dance "fight" became too realistic when Clive caught Graham with a sharp blow on the cheek.

Soon after this the tempo of the dance was slowed down, the lights went out and sixteen Rainmakers entered carrying lighted candles for the candle dance. This was much appreciated.

More joining-in dances followed and, at times we laughed till the tears ran. The Japanese dance proved to be highly entertaining and almost everyone was on the floor for Musica Nisheet.

Till must have felt absolutely shattered by the end as she had kept us all going from eight o'clock till nearly midnight.

All the Rainmakers agreed that it had been a jolly good dance and we think that the people of Haslington thought so too.

Programme:-

Evening in Dances.

Neda Grivna
Abuelul

Ve David
Little Man in a Fix.

Branle de Cosnay
Appenzeller Klatschwalzer

Vlegert
La Bastringue
Neopolitan Tarantella

Danish Schottische
Salty Dog Rag
Erva Cidera

Boanapstekker
Hakke Toone

Fyrtur
Galop Kontra

Kotataki Ondo
Dondlekska Polka

Musica Nisharet
Hora Hadera

Display Dances.

Spot I

Rav Brachot
Sandsvaeril

Ox Dans
Kreuz Köenig

Horlepief .

Spot II

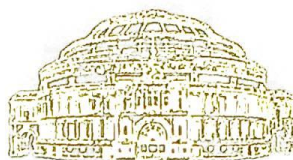
La Danza
Fackeltanz
Tarantella Fasola .

"Spotlight on Dance"

A National Festival of Movement and Dance
in celebration of The Central Council of Physical
Recreation's Diamond Jubilee.

30th September 1995.

Royal Albert Hall, London.



ROYAL ALBERT HALL

Central Council of Physical Recreation
Kellogg's SPECIAL K "Spotlight on Dance"

PERFORMERS PASS
Saturday September 30th 1995
MORNING

SEE OVER FOR DETAILS OF FOOD AND DRINK AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

The Rainmaker
contingent of dancers..

- Jill
- Louise
- Janet
- John
- Sheila
- Richard
- Graham
- Cive
- Jackie
- Terry
- Marie

Dunav Balkan Group



Dunav Balkan Group takes its name from the Danube and specialises in music from south-eastern Europe.

Founded over thirty years ago, its repertoire exceeds two hundred pieces, including songs, with an enormous variety ranging from the haunting beauty of a slow Romanian melody to the excitement of a fast Macedonian dance. Much of the folk music of the Balkans is characterised by unusual rhythms such as five, seven and eleven beats in a bar.

"Dunav"

The excellent band that played for "Hai le Toc," the suite of Romanian dances.

"SPOTLIGHT ON DANCE"
Royal Albert Hall
30 September 1995

Eleven members of Rainmakers were proud to be part of the SIFD presentation team taking part in this year's "Spotlight On Dance", A National Festival of Music and Dance in celebration of the Central Council of Physical Recreation's Diamond Jubilee.

Our performance, entitled "Hai le Joc", with choreography by Frances H. Rocks, comprised a suite of four Romanian dances; Hora Mintita, Jiana, Sirba de la Primavera and Hora Femeilor. There were over eighty dancers on the floor (by far the largest group on the programme) and the excellent live music was provided by Dunav Balkan Group. Many costumes were authentic, others were borrowed from amongst the various groups taking part in the display (Rainmakers borrowed most of theirs from Selpar in the West Midlands).

The two five-minute performances were a culmination of much practice and preparation, both during club nights and at the special rehearsals held in Birmingham on three Sundays over a period spanning from January, when the teaching session was held, until the dress rehearsal in the middle of September. Birmingham had been chosen as a venue since it was central for all the groups involved from as far apart as Manchester, Gwent, the Midlands, London and the Home Counties.

On the day most of our members met up at Kings Cross station and took taxis to the Royal Albert Hall, arriving for an 11.15am dress rehearsal followed by a group photograph on the steps outside. All went well at the rehearsal except for a small problem getting all our number on stage in time for the first steps, and a slight off-the-shoulder costume problem which was easily remedied with a couple of safety pins. Thank goodness also for that hardware shop at Kings Cross station where one of our two leading men managed to purchase a substitute broom handle, having left the original, a vital prop, at home! (This is the same individual who left a jacket containing house keys et al in Birmingham after one of the rehearsals - he shall, of course, remain nameless; suffice it to say he is not American.)

There then followed a leisurely picnic in the park, except for those who had volunteered to represent us at the finale, who had to take the stage again, twizzle sticks at the ready. Mrs. Bransby, in her official role as SIFD chairman, also had to don gladrags and slip off to a reception during the lunch break to hobnob with the local dignitaries.

And then to the first performance, the 2pm matinee. With nerves jangling we waited at the bottom of our entrance staircase, awaiting the call of our two star performers from above... "Foai e verde de mohor...". The call came, we were on, and all went brilliantly. The audience was really receptive and we received spontaneous applause at the end of the third dance. If this could only be repeated in the evening.



Card from Frances Horrocks to the
Rainmakers R.A.H. team.

To Rainmakers
RAH team

Thank you all very
much for your support
and hard work in
recent months.

The result was fantastic!

Frances.

After a quick change out of costume some of us went up to the balcony to view the rest of the programme, others intending to catch the evening performance. The whole programme was extremely varied and enjoyable (not quite so many ladies in leotards as heretofore was the general consensus) including guest performances from the Magpie Integrated Dance Group, a company of adults with learning disabilities, and Gabhru Punjab De (Youth of Punjab), a flamboyant Indian dance group from the West Midlands. All the groups were represented in the finale, including twenty-eight members of the SIFD, among them three Rainmakers. The atmosphere on the day was terrific, and the applause of the audience said it all.

The evening performance was just as enjoyable and although several of us left after the SIFD spot, I am informed that the finale was even more colourful and synchronized than earlier.

After our experiences in the dressing room throughout the day, we have decided our next endeavour will be to go for an entry in the Guinness Book of Records for the greatest number of costume changes by eighty people in a telephone booth!

Louise.

The eleven dancers from Rainmakers who were part of the eighty plus team representing the S.I.F.D. at the Royal Albert Hall are very grateful to Louise for going to the initial meeting in Birmingham to learn the dances, teaching the dances at the club and at special rehearsals and for liaising with Frances Horrocks.

I add my thanks to her, a very busy person, for writing this interesting report.

I also thank Janet for saving her ticket and for retrieving a programme for me to cut up.

"Spotlight on Dance"
Grand Finale



Pictures taken and given by Jill.



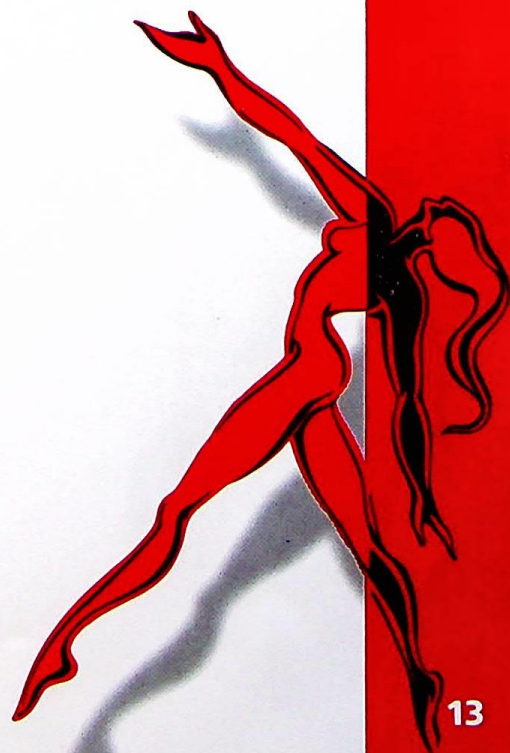
Society for International Folk Dance

The Society for International Folk Dance was founded in 1946 as a result of meetings between refugees and British students at the International Youth Centre. It is a voluntary, non-political association of people who learn and enjoy the dances and music of many countries and who wish to help preserve folk traditions.

To encourage this aim the Society has established groups and classes throughout Britain. It arranges day and residential courses, including a biennial summer school, as well as frequent social events. Groups and individuals often travel abroad to learn dances at first hand and overseas teachers are welcomed in return.

The Society organises a proficiency badge scheme leading to a Teacher's Certificate and produces cassettes, CDs, videos and instruction books. It also has a large collection of authentic costumes. Members keep in touch with each other through a monthly newsletter which has articles, letters and a calendar of events.

The SIFD is represented at many folk festivals such as Eastbourne, Billingham and Sidmouth, contributes to an annual prize at Llangollen International Music Eisteddfod, and is a member of the CCPR.





Margaret Morris Movement

Margaret Morris (1891 - 1980) was the founder of the Margaret Morris Movement, she was a pioneer in early modern dance, exercise and movement in the UK and also in movement and dance therapy. This year the Margaret Morris Movement celebrates its 85th Anniversary. Margaret Morris was a dancer, choreographer, composer, writer and artist who influenced and trained many people who went on to become creative artists themselves. MMM is an international organisation with branches in France, Germany, Switzerland, Portugal, Canada, Japan, Australia, USA and individual teachers in many other countries throughout the world. It is equally suitable for men, women and children and there are special adaptations for toddlers, the very young and the elderly.



The English Amateur Dancesport Association and the British Council of Ballroom Dancing

The English Amateur Dancesport Association is the governing body of amateur competitive dancers in England, and is represented on the CCPR Movement and Dance Division and the British Council of Ballroom Dancing. Membership covers all age groups from juveniles under twelve years to seniors over fifty. It is also a member of the International Dance Sport Federation, which has recently received provisional recognition of Dancesport by the International Olympic Committee. The international amateur body comprises sixty-five member countries and EADA members are able to visit many of them to take part in competitions.

The British Council of Ballroom Dancing was

founded in 1929 as the 'Official Board of Ballroom Dancing'. The intention was to establish a co-ordinating body to enable teachers to work together on uniform lines and so gain greater confidence with the public. Since its inception, the 'Board' has more than achieved this, quickly becoming accepted as the governing body for all matters pertaining to teachers, adjudicators and professional competitors throughout England, Scotland and Wales. It changed its name to the 'British Council of Ballroom Dancing' in April 1985, to reflect more accurately its role and function. The BCBD aims to promote all styles of ballroom dancing, by publicising the physical, cultural and educational benefits to be derived from ballroom dancing in all its forms while, at the same time, stimulating public interest in ballroom dancing.



Comperes: Peggy Spencer MBE

Overture

Leighton Park Jazz Quintet

WELCOME!

Galop from Ballets des Mouches - Offenbach

Performers drawn from: British Association of Teachers of Dancing, Health and Beauty Exercise, International Dance Teachers Association, Keep Fit Association, Laban Guild, Margaret Morris Movement, Medau Society, Physical Education Association of the United Kingdom, Royal Academy of Dancing, Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Margaret Peggie

RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS

Bulgarian Folk Music/Capriccio Espagnol

Performers: BAGA National Squad

Helen Roberts

HAI LE JOG

A Romanian Suite of Dances

Musicians: Durav Balkan Group

Performers from the Society for International Folk Dance

Frances Horrocks

THE FLAMES BURN BRIGHT

Rhythms for life - Traditional African Drumming

Performers from Margaret Morris Movement

Jim Hastie

BRANDO DI CALES

Brando di Cales - Cesare Negri

Performers from the Dolmetsch Historical Dance Society

Diana Cruickshank

SLAP THAT BASS

Slap that Bass - George and Ira Gershwin

Performers from the Constance Grant Dance Centre, Sheffield representing the International Dance Teachers' Association

Judith Silvester

ON SHOW

In the Night - Pat Shop Boys

Performers from Health and Beauty Exercise

Linda Spray

WHA MEK JOHN CROW A SING

Original music composed by Ian Stewart

Singer: Alicia Carroll

Performers: Magpie Integrated Dance Group

Jasmine Pasch

Avril Hitman

CRAZY RHYTHM

Crazy Rhythm - George and Ira Gershwin

Performers from the Keep Fit Association

Ann Goppick

BALLROOM AND OLDE TYME DANCING

Musical medley

Performers representing the British Council of Ballroom Dancing and the English Amateur Dancesport Association

Peggy Spencer

Lindsey Hillier

Interval - 20 minutes

Light refreshments will be available during the interval from buffets in various parts of the house

FOSBROOK CLOG DANCERS AND MUSICIANS

Performers representing the English Folk Dance and Song Society

Liza Austen

METAMORPHOSIS

Eine Kleine Nachtmusik - Mozart

Performers from the Laban Guild of Movement and Dance

Sam and Susi Thomson

A CELTIC COLLECTION

Traditional Scottish country dances

Piper: Sandy Walker

Performers from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society

Ann Dix

PAS CLASSIQUE

Fete Boheme - Massenet

Performers: Senior students from the Royal Academy of Dancing

Ysabelle Taylor

SIMPLY MOVEMENT

Jah Route and Calm Sea - Rupert Parker

Performers from the Medau Society

Margaret Charlwood

SEASONS

Riverdance - Bill Whelan

Performers from the Finch Stage School representing the British Association of Teachers of Dancing

Linda Finch

GABHRU PUNJAB DE

Bhangra

Parminder Cheema

SONG OF HOPE

Canon - Pachelbel

Performers: Ziggy Youth Dance representing the Physical Education Association of the United Kingdom

'Song of Hope' is a celebration of living

Ziggy are joined by the Zigglets ... who are from Ash Green

Primary School - Stoke on Trent

Denise de Wet

LATIN - AMERICAN DANCING

Musical medley

Performers: top British couples representing the British Council of Ballroom Dancing and the English Amateur Dancesport Association

Peggy Spencer

Lindsey Hillier

FINALE

Musicians: Leighton Park Jazz Quintet

Margaret Peggie

NATIONAL ANTHEM

Members of the audience are requested to refrain from smoking in the auditorium



The Fosbrooks

The Fosbrooks are a large group of young people who play traditional tunes and use percussive dance to create a unique type of folk performance. Their music is mainly British and many of the sets they perform are from their native north west. The dance style reflects the cultural heritage of the region and includes the Lancashire and Cheshire competitive step dance style. The team name comes from the three

leaders of the 1890s and 1920s clog Morris team. Brothers Jess and Jack Fosbrook trained teams at the turn of the century and after the first world war. Jack's daughter Elsie Fosbrook taught the current revival to perform the steps which she had learnt in her father's team. The team travel all over the country and abroad to folk festivals and traditional dance events. Their music has been broadcast on the radio and they have made numerous appearances on television.

DV8

By Zoë Anderson

Lloyd Newson's *Enter Achilles*, for his DV8 Physical Theatre and created partly through improvisations with the dancers, concerns a group of heterosexual men on a night out. There are no women in the piece; the nearest we get to seeing any of these men in female company is an early, surprisingly tender scene in which David Emanuel plays with a plastic sex doll. The rest of the performance shows men, in the pub, in pursuit of a good time. As they get drunk, they get maudlin, angry, and increasingly violent; their emotions are brilliantly outlined by the eight dancers. Each is precisely characterised; these are not simply generic lager louts. Particular relationships and personalities are vividly detailed. The violence which comes to dominate the evening springs from individual insecurities and individual responses to them.

That violence first breaks out when the men realise that one of their number (Juan Kruz Diaz de Garaio Esnaola) may be gay. They move in on him, adopting exaggeratedly feminine movements as a means of humiliating him, before starting to beat him up. It is distressing, and telling, that the doll's fond owner should be one of the principal aggressors. Esnaola escapes by means of the ideal playground solution to bullying: he flings off his clothes to reveal a superman costume.

The drinking is interrupted by other slightly surreal moments. There is a dance with a football which combines Irish step dancing and the Ministry for Silly Walks and Esnaola, still as Superman, threatens one of his aggressors with a razor and shaving foam. Liam Steel, whose character tends to rely on being funny rather than on aggression, swings on a rope held by Esnaola, and finds himself lifted high above the stage. Steel has not avoided physical contact — on the contrary, he draws attention to himself throughout the evening by pulling at the other dancers — and, of course, he hangs on to Esnaola to avoid falling. As soon as they reach the ground, however, he does show a fear of touch; Esnaola lands in his arms, and he has to laugh and brush him off.

Similarly, the men's hostility to homosexuality disappears in one scene of the performance. When the jukebox plays the Bee Gees, Esnaola launches into a camp *Saturday Night Fever* act, and the other men immediately join in. The theatricality of a karaoke night excuses and even encourages their attempts to outcamp him. The return of the last two men — Emanuel and Robert Tannion — destroys that atmosphere: everyone struggles back into their clothes, and the two slowest are subjected to another shaming.

That leads to the last and most brutal scene of the piece. Steel has already seen Emanuel with his plastic doll and kept his mouth shut; now he brings the doll on in revenge for his own humiliation. Emanuel,



Above, plastic sex doll and man's foot in *Enter Achilles*. Photograph by Max Jourdan.

Below, Romanian folk dance at the Royal Albert Hall. Photograph by Chris Christodoulou.

until now one of the butchest of the men, is taunted in his turn; the doll is passed from hand to hand, snatched from his grasp and used as a football. Finally, Tannion rapes the doll with a bottle and slashes its breasts. Tannion and Emanuel have appeared as best friends throughout the piece, leading the attacks on others; the mutilation of the doll attacks Emanuel, who has the softness of owning the doll and has excluded his friend from that secret. After an hour of macho behaviour, the mutilation also looks like an attack on the weakness of associating with anything feminine.

Newson has suggested, in some of the statements surrounding the piece, that *Enter*

Achilles examines the "fundamental question of what constitutes masculinity". It does not; this is not a picture of all men, if such a thing could be achieved, or even of all men within a particular pub culture. The violence, the insecurities and indeed the humour are brilliantly evoked, but they seem to me to be evoked in pictures of individuals. Those insecurities, and those cruelties, are believable but not universal.

For all the brutalities, these characters are not completely disgusting. They all, at various stages, do unspeakable things, but the final impression is one of confusion and unhappiness, not of vileness. *Enter Achilles* is often very funny, and always superbly performed. It is also profoundly bleak. Whether Newson intends this as a portrait of these characters, of some men or of all men, it is a disturbing picture.

Note: *Enter Achilles* was reviewed by Zoë Anderson from the Festival Theatre in Edinburgh, where it was shown on October 13 and 14. The present tour ended October 30 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall as part of Dance Umbrella.

Spotlight on Dance

By Mary Clarke

The most spectacular of the events arranged to celebrate the Diamond Jubilee of the Central Council of Physical Recreation was a national festival of movement and dance, called *Spotlight on Dance*, held at the Royal Albert Hall for two performances on September 30. A large and very mixed collection of dance activities was on offer, well organised by Freddie Boulwood, Janice Moore and Peggy Spencer, the compère, and produced by Margaret Peggie.

Many of the groups and associations represented were enthusiastic amateurs,



The
Rainmakers.

Photo-call for
Spotlight on
Dance.

Taking Part :-

Jill
Louise
John
Sheila
Janet
Terry
Richard
Jackie
Graham
Clive
Maia



John and Sheila
- expert Balkan
dancers from
the U.S.A.

Photographs
from Janet.

Included
below but
standing
in for
Maia and
Clive at
rehearsal
- Isabel
Adrian.



obviously enjoying their participation hugely and cheered on by coachloads of supporters from all over the country. The programme certainly demonstrated, as Peggy Spencer frequently reiterated, that dance is for everyone and the RAH provided a rare opportunity to see under one roof dance forms not always included on dance programmes. It was good to see that the Margaret Morris Movement is still very much alive, also Health and Beauty Exercise.

Many of the amateur groups were, frankly, more notable for the enjoyment they offered to performers than to spectators and there was a dreadful preponderance of women — most unlikely shapes and sizes cavorting in leotards. But there were some great pleasures and they came, for the most part, from dancers who had mastered their chosen dance form and had the strongest sense of performance. Two real delights were the ballroom dancers, who closed the first half, young, good looking, technically brilliant and skimming over the huge floor with exhilarating skill and joy, and the dancers from the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society. Scottish Country Dancing is a genuine form of social dance, performed most proudly by adults, not too elaborate but notable for neat footwork, attractive patterns and traditional, formal dress. In both these groups it was refreshing to see men and women dancing together as equals.

I enjoyed an excellent tap routine from the Constance Grant Dance Centre (representing the IDTA), the Fosbrook Clog Dancers (although it was surprising to see so few men), and a suite of Romanian dances, in traditional costumes, from the Society for International Folk Dance.

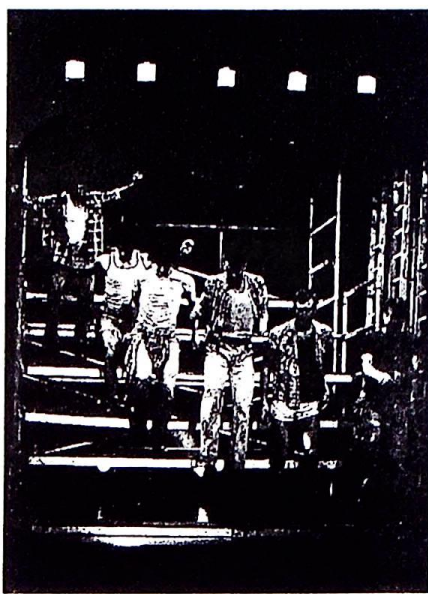
About the contribution from the Laban Guild of Movement and Dance, to Mozart!, I was far less happy and it was hard on the small group of girl students from the Royal Academy of Dancing to follow the Scottish country dancers with a very slight classical number, lost in the vast spaces of the Royal Albert Hall.

Although the title and the banners proclaimed the spotlight was on "dance", movement was too often the substitute — doubtless fun to perform, less fun to watch.

Tap Dogs

By Sue Merrett

The three week *Tap Dogs* season at Sadler's Wells Theatre (September 19-October 7) was given as part of a national tour which had included the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. As with *Riverdance*, the British public seems suddenly to have discovered step dancing, and taken to it with enthusiasm. The houses at Sadler's Wells were full and, despite the show being less than 80 minutes, the audiences have been happy with the evening's entertainment — which is good. For anyone going along in the expectation of 'real' tap, however, the evening might have less enchantment. The programme gives biographies of the show's



Above, *Tap Dogs* on their set at Sadler's Wells. Photograph by Nic Harper.

Below, Daria Klimentova as Titania with Preston Clare as Bottom in Scottish Ballet's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. Photograph by Bill Cooper.

creator and lead dancer, Dein Perry, and the rest of the total cast of six. All have good training backgrounds in their native Australia, and have been performing for many years.

In *Tap Dogs*, the image is that of a butcher set of chaps in an environment not unlike a building site, with its different levels, steel girders, blinding lights, and water troughs. With no interval and a small cast it means that the energy level is very high and, with a 'nothing to hide' ambience, sweat and effort are very much part of the performance. The use of heavy ankle boots and a miscellany of clothing — the tatter the better — means that the subtleties of more familiar tap dance are nowhere to be seen. The dancing involves heavy stamping most of the time, with Perry himself providing the most nuances in his own choreography. Much of the time the 'taps' are amplified, one section has six tap boards linked to 'musical' sounds for some fun, the steel girders provide different and slanted levels for some added excitement, and all in all it is a good show — but the tap side of the dancing is less evident. Perhaps if the footwear were less stiff and solid, particularly around the ankles, more could have been achieved. But having said that, I think the production achieved exactly what it wanted — a noisy, exciting, energetic and rough-around-the-edges show appealing to a wide public.

Scottish Ballet

By Sue Merrett

In 1993 Robert Cohan was invited to Glasgow to create a full-evening ballet. The subject he

chose was Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, using the Mendelssohn incidental music together with specially composed sections by Barrington Pheloung, who also arranged the Mendelssohn according to Cohan's scenario. Working with another familiar colleague, Norberto Chiesa, Cohan gave the familiar story a very new look, and the Scottish dancers a challenge in his contemporary dance-based style. In our May 1993 issue Kathrine Sorley Walker reviewed the production in depth. For this season's revival, Cohan again visited Glasgow and made some changes, apparently mainly in the cheery orgy scene between the duped Titania and the 'translated' Bottom. This section, which closes Act I, is now thought to be less steamy than the original but flooded with red light as it is, it still makes its point.

The cast on September 19 included some of the first cast — Robert Hampton back after injury showed a powerful Oberon; Noriko Ohara was a cool and controlled Hippolyta now partnered by Simon Stewart's Theseus (these two characters have larger roles than in the play). New to their roles were Daria Klimentova, as a Titania with a touch of Carmen, and the bounding Campbell McKenzie as Puck. Preston Clare as Bottom in psychedelic shirt, relished the crudities of his characterisation, while Catherine Evers with Vladislav Bubov, and Anne Christie with Rupert Jowett, made as much of the lovers as they were able.

The two-composer score was conducted by the company's music director, Alan Barker, with the ladies of the Royal Scottish National Orchestra Chorus combining with the company's Orchestra to provide the magical sound setting. ■





"Spotlight on Dance," Royal Albert Hall, London.
September 30th 1995

The group representing the S.I.F.D. dances "Hai
le Joe", a suite of four Romanian dances.
Photograph by Chris Christodorescu.

Rainmakers' Anniversary Dance.
Saturday, October 14th 1995.

The Rainmakers celebrated the 19th anniversary of the club with a dance held at Ickleford Village Hall. The actual date of our first meeting was September 10th 1976 but it has been found that more people attend a dance held in October when the holiday season is over. Thirty people went to Ickleford on Saturday last, most of whom were wearing an international costume of some kind. This, with the bright posters of folk dancers around the room, added to the festive atmosphere.

The band was Jacob's Ladder from Cambridge, — a group of 6 musicians led by Michael who often dances with us on a Friday evening. Heather, a violinist in the band, is also a regular member of Rainmakers club. Their instruments include a saxophone, guitar, flute, clarinet, mandolin, violins, accordion, and drum kit (though an occasional drum). The band had had to learn the tunes for our requested dances and they played beautifully making a sweet sound, especially in the slow, lyrical pieces. Once or twice the tempo was just a bit too fast. In Pariser Polka we were nearly falling over ourselves but that just caused a laugh.

As always, Jill as M.C. kept the evening going at a slick pace through the varied programme of dances that she had planned.

We stopped to rest three times during the evening - 7.30 to 11.00 p.m.

The first break came for the consumption of refreshments brought to share by the dancers and ably organised by Maria. Maria had made a Black Forest Gateau with candles on it as our birthday cake. Belinda invited our most senior member, Moya, to cut it this year.

The next interval was so that we could listen to Katka who first of all sang several love songs in her native language, Czech. This was followed by another song about love, from Shakespeare, in English - the Cuckoo that mocks married men. Finally she sang an aria from Mozart's *The Marriage of Figaro*. Katka has a lovely powerful voice and she sang them all unaccompanied. We all marvelled at this accomplishment and thoroughly enjoyed hearing her songs.

The final entertainment was given to us by Sheila and John, a couple from America who have been coming to Rainmakers for two years. They are expert Balkan dancers and they gave us a display of a Czardas from Transylvania called . It is a long, fast, difficult dance with lots of turns in it. They danced it splendidly, thoroughly deserving the rapturous applause.

When Jill and Belinda were thanking our committee and all who contributed to the evening, they commented on how lucky we are to have such talent in the club and two good bands, not far away, who play for our dances. We cannot but agree.

RAINMAKERS ANNIVERSARY DANCE - October 14th, 1995.

BAND: *Jacob's Ladder*

Alunelul
Hoi Harmonica

Little Man in a Fix
Lublin Polka

Sharm A' Sheix

Horlepiep
Santis Masoulke

La Bastringue (TAPE)
Mari Mariko

Hambo
Galop Kontra

Ba Pardess
Shiru Hashir (TAPE)

La Bourrée Tournante des Grandes Potteries
Yerakina (TAPE)

El Corrido
Jarabe Tapatio (TAPE)

Russian Lyrical
Russian Waltz

Kotataki Ondo (TAPE)

Sänftenberger
Sprotzer Achterüm

Joc de Leagane (TAPE)
Tarantella 'Fasola'

Hora Mireseii

Kevi Czardas (TAPE)
Haro'a Haketana

Pariser Polka
Sandsvaerril

Maiezyt
~~Mei Muzhenka (TAPE)~~

~~Tarantella Montevirgense~~
~~Rennigen~~

Nikolos (TAPE)
Salty Dog Rag

Deux, Deux, Deux
Jota Tapatia

Ras Dwa
Untersteirer Ländler

Hora Hadera

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RAINMAKERS ON THEIR 19th BIRTHDAY!

Day Course, Saturday 21 October 1995:

This day-course was a new venture, being an 'in-house' event, with several members of the Club teaching or revising dances. The venue was also new — Letchworth Central Methodist Church Hall — a brighter place than St. Michael's, with a wooden floor.

Regrettably, only about 18 people attended. If only more members would support such events, less time would have to be spent re-teaching dances on Friday evenings. However, those of us who were there had an enjoyable and instructive day. The 'teachers' were Jill, Isabel, John, Graham, and Belinda. The dances covered were Hora Bekaa (Israel), La Croisada (France), Bekesi Czardas (Hungary), Tzahalat Hassidim (Israel), Wechsel Polka (Switzerland), and Gaudontsee Bar (Armenia).

Wednesday, November 1995

Display at Robert Humbert House, Letchworth.

Ten Rainmakers went to Robert Humbert House to entertain the elderly residents, as they had done last year. They were most appreciative and some joined in the dancing of Fyrtur and Zagrodnik.

Claine tells me that, when chatting over a cup of tea afterwards, one old lady commented to her "You're no Spring chickens!"

Claine pointed out to her that one of the dancers present (Moya) is aged 78.

Programme:-

Jesusita en Chihuahua

Sadala Polka

Picking up Sticks

Familie Sekstur

Ox Dances

Salty Dog Rag

Mexican Hat Dance

Hashual

Hora Bikda (?)

Zagrodnik

Sansraeril

Tarantella Fasola

Ba Pardess.

Dancers:-

Clive, Julie, Graham Isobel, Claine, Moya, Sue, Adrian,
Mark, Patti,

Friday, November 17th 1995.

Club Evening with Audrey Whiteley.

On Friday last, Audrey Whiteley, an S.I.F.D. teacher who lives in Watford, came to Letchworth to take the club evening. We were very pleased to see her as we remembered, with pleasure, her previous visit a few years ago when she taught us Bromoraga and Atta Man Engel amongst other dances that have stayed in the club's repertoire.

Audrey brought with her two other old friends of the Rainmakers, Janet Woolbar and Frank Flanagan, to act as her "visual aids" as she put it.

The dances she taught were:—

HORA DIN COASA

Romania

WOLGASTER

Pomerania (Germany)

TARINA DE LA ABRUD

Romania

TIEDELIEPATS

Holland

All these dances appear from time to time on the programmes of the S.I.F.D. evenings at Cecil Sharp House that are held every month. If we persevere we should be able to join in soon, especially the easy circle dances from Romania.

It was good to see a large turn-out of Rainmakers - thirty four members were present. I'm sure they enjoyed themselves as much as I did. I found it rewarding to concentrate on a few dances in one evening. Perhaps others feel the same and would prefer an occasional club evening like this to a Day Course on a Saturday.

Saturday, 18th November 1995.

Display at St. Andrews Home for the Elderly,
Hitchin.

A party of Rainmakers went to St. Andrews, as they have for several years past, near to Christmas to entertain the residents with a display of International Folk Dancing, to which, we are told, they look forward. Some of the residents are Sequence dancers and others danced in their youth, and they like to join in a few of the gentle dances.

The programme was virtually a repeat of that used for the Robert Humbert House display.



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I saw this advertisement
in the Telegraph Colour Supplement.
Is she dancing Kotataki Ondo?

How about a set of Japanese
costumes? Only £95 each!

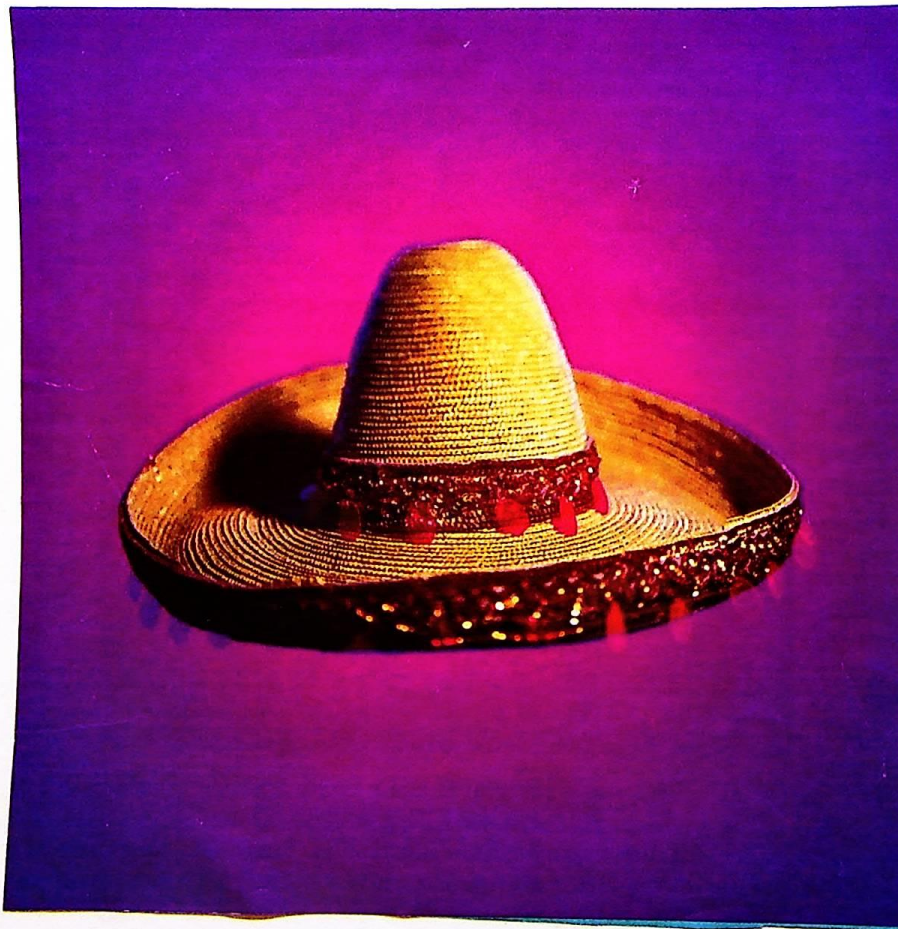
RAINMAKERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

FRIDAY 24th NOVEMBER 1995 at 8.00 pm

To be held at St Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 1994 A.G.M.
3. Matters arising from minutes
4. Chairman's remarks
5. Secretary's report
6. Treasurer's report
7. Appointment of auditors
8. Fixing of Annual and Weekly subscriptions
9. Election of officers and committee members
10. Any other business



A nice
Mexican hat
to brighten
up the A.G.M.
agenda.

Minutes of Rainmakers Annual General Meeting
held on Friday 2nd December 1994
at 'Red Gables', Benslow Path, The Avenue, Hitchin, Herts.

The meeting opened at 8:07pm.

Chairperson: Belinda Lansbury

Present: 25 members

1. Apologies for absence

Janet Purdy, Claire Steely, Hilary & Jim Cowan, Jackie Cowan.

2. Minutes of 1993 A.G.M.

The minutes of the Meeting held on 3rd December 1993 (which had been circulated in advance) were approved and signed.

3. Matters Arising from A.G.M. Minutes

a. Item 3.a. Richard reported that to increase the interest paid, at least £500 would have to be deposited into a savings account. The committee had decided that due to having to keep transferring money it was not worth it.

b. Item 6. Belinda reported that the organizing checklists are now being used and have been useful.

c. Item 10. Belinda said Adrian had made the point that it was important for the Club to do the Victoria Embankment display. However due to lack of interest the Club did not display at the Victoria Embankment (1994) and have turned down the offer for 1995. Belinda said we hope to do the display in 1996 and then do it every other year.

Belinda reported that the committee had decided to raise the weekly subscription on the 7th January 1994, because there was only one week after the 10th December 1993 that the Club met other than the Christmas party.

d. Item 12. Belinda pointed out that Terry had said that other Clubs did not hold rehearsals in Club time. Belinda said that Staplers do hold rehearsals in Club time every year.

e. Item 13.1. Belinda reported that following the suggestion at last year's A.G.M. the committee had changed the date of the Anniversary dance to October and it was a success. Belinda said the committee had decided to have a band and entertainment, and had therefore budgeted for a loss. In fact the dance made a profit.

f. Item 13.3. Henry had asked for some Turkish and Armenian dances to be taught. This was arranged - however Henry was unable to attend the day course. Belinda thanked Henry for the idea and reported the Balkan day course had gone well and also made a profit.

4. Chairman's remarks

Belinda thanked all the many people in the Club who are willing to take on the jobs that need doing regularly. Particularly:-

Ann	Publicity
Sue	Wardrobe
Moya	Squash
Betty	Scrapbooks
Terry	Newsletter
Jill	Dance leadership

Belinda pointed out none of these people are committee members. Belinda thanked her committee and announced that Maria is taking over the task of wardrobe mistress.

Belinda said she had set a goal for herself and the committee over the past year to encourage more members to run Friday evenings, M.C. displays and teach new dances. To get things started a Teachers/Callers workshop was organised, run by Janet Woolbar. Four volunteers, Clive, Mark, Richard, and Roy, taught dances.

The first Friday of every month has become the "Guest Caller" evening. It is hoped to have an organised rota from January and put up a list of "forthcoming attractions". Sue and Mark have both run displays during the past year, but more people are needed to help take some of the burden away from Jill.

Belinda said her goal for next year is how the Club should cope with its growing numbers. To help the committee there would be "Rainmakers Future Direction" as a discussion item later in the meeting.

5. Secretary's report

Mark's report included events from 1st September 1993 to 31st August 1994. Mark went through the highlights of the 12 displays, a day course, 5 garden evenings, 3 Beginners Workshops, Anniversary Dance, the first Rainmakers Teacher's/Caller's day course, and highlights of other events during the year.

6. Treasurer's report

Richard apologized for some errors in the accounts; the balance should be £1234.98, and the working capital £826.84. Richard explained the notes attached to the accounts. Adrian pointed out the net expenditure should be £2375.88. This was corrected.

Acceptance of the Treasurer's report was proposed by Adrian, seconded by Henry, and agreed unanimously.

7. Appointment of auditors

Richard proposed, and Belinda seconded, that Bill Thorne be appointed as Auditor. This was carried unanimously.

8. Fixing of Annual and weekly subscriptions

The committee proposed that the annual and weekly subscriptions stay the same: This was proposed by Richard, seconded by Belinda. This was carried unanimously.

9. Election of officers and committee members

The following nominations had been received, and those persons nominated were duly elected:

Belinda Lansbury (chairperson)	Maria Kerr (committee)
Richard Thom (treasurer)	Graham Styles (committee)
Mark Balaam (secretary)	Isabel Lamont (committee)
	Kathy Molesworth (committee)

10. Rainmakers future direction

Belinda said she would put a time limit on the discussion; if it was not possible to complete tonight, either a sub committee would be set up or an E.G.M. would be called.

Belinda explained the Rainmakers future direction discussion document.

Richard said we have 54 members and an average attendance of 29 this term.

Adrian made the following points:-

- a. Rainmakers are a dance club.
- b. Social events should be arranged by members, not the committee.
- c. The Club is about the right size, so there is no need to actually look for new members.
- d. If new members do come along they should be encouraged.
- e. Beginners workshops should be for Rainmakers only.
- f. We should display; small displays should be considered on each display's own merits.
- g. Big money earning displays should only be done for fun.
- h. Promotional displays should be done.
- i. Rehearsals should be on both Fridays and separate days depending on the type of event.
- j. We should have more M.C.s and more members owning their own costumes.

Jill agreed with all the points Adrian had made and re-emphasised that the Club is a dance group. Jill felt the beginners workshops should continue and they would be better if for Rainmakers only. Jill offered to help any new M.C.s.

Richard said the dance group should not be separated from social events. Isabel said the committee had made the point of dance group or social group because several new members had attended the Club as something to do on a Friday night and were not interested in learning dances. It was felt these people should be encouraged to dance.

Roy felt if people from outside the group wish to attend the beginners workshops they should be allowed. By doing this we are promoting international dancing. Roy said doing too many displays a year does disrupt the Club evenings and he felt the number of displays should be limited.

Mark said it is hard to limit the number of displays because other than the displays we do each year the rest rely on people phoning up and asking for a display. These calls can come several a month or none for a couple of months.

Mark pointed out it causes a lot of problems when the Club agrees to do a display but when the display comes around no one is interested so the display has to be cancelled. Roy suggested getting people to put their names to a list when the Club is asked if it wishes to do a display.

Mark said the Club displays on average 12 times a year and also turns down at least 14 more. Roy felt that is too many.

Betty suggested vetting the requests the Club gets to display. Mark said the committee already do this.

Louise made the point that as a new member she felt that displays were an important part of the Club and the rehearsals on Fridays did not disrupt the evening, but showed new members what the Club does.

Margery said one of the best ways for the Club to socialise is to dance with other groups or clubs.

Roy suggested that if the Victoria Embankment display was announced the same as the Anniversary Dance has been this year, this might get more people interested in doing the display.

Belinda summed up this part of the discussion into these main points on displays:

- a. Displays are important to the Club, and to do different types of displays.
- b. Displays should be done for fun; we particularly enjoy

displays for old people's homes, etc. and do not like school fetes.

c. Belinda suggested the Committee could vet displays and only ask the Club about displays that the Committee think the Club would like to do, therefore limiting the number of displays put to the Club.

Adrian said that by vetting the displays this should mean the announcements are shorter, and therefore keep people's attention.

Martin suggested sometimes extending the length of time the Club meets on a Friday night to 10.30pm. This would allow practices for displays to take place while the members are at the Club. Peter said by lengthening certain Friday nights, it might be possible to have a beginners' practice for half an hour at some time during the evening.

Richard said that the hall is charged per hour, and to pay for the extra hour the weekly subs would probably have to rise to £1.00 or more. Martin pointed out that for certain displays extra halls are hired, and by including them in a Friday night this should not affect the weekly subs. Richard said the money for the extra halls for practices does not come out of Friday nights' monies.

Martin also pointed out that by having very long announcements this cuts into dancing time. Isabel said that it is often not only Mark but several other people doing their own announcements. Isabel suggested people should let Mark know in advance. Adrian said if the notice board was put in a different place, this would stop it being crowded out by people paying their subs.

Richard asked if the Club would prefer to have the newsletter more than once a term. It was suggested to have just a list of event dates published. Mark said event dates are already listed in the newsletter.

Betty felt wearing badges with first names on them for one evening would help new members to learn our names and us to learn theirs.

Isabel said we should encourage new members to have at least one basic costume. This would allow them to join in small displays (using mixed costumes) without having to borrow a costume. Isabel said there had also been problems with costumes being borrowed and returned damaged, incomplete or dirty. It was suggested putting information about who the wardrobe mistress is and what patterns are available, etc., in the newsletter.

Richard suggested people borrowing costumes should pay a deposit and if costumes are returned damaged should pay for the repair.

Belinda summed up the main points from the discussion:-

- a. We are first and foremost a dance group and should remain so.
- b. The committee should not go out of their way to organize social events.
- c. The committee to vet displays and offer fewer to the Club, this should cut down rehearsals.
- d. To promote new members to make costumes and let them know what help is available.
- e. To do displays to enjoy them.
- f. Not to actively look for new members.
- g. Beginners workshops should be for dancers only and not advertized to non dancers.
- h. Shorter notices and putting the notice board in a different place.
- i. A reduced newsletter more often with dates on.
- j. To try to get people to commit to doing a display when the Club is first asked.

Belinda thanked everyone for taking part in the discussion.

11. Any other busness

11.1 Day Course

Belinda reported that following feedback from the Balkan day course the committee had decided from now on to charge people attending for only half a day, approx 60% of the price of the whole day.

11.2 Display Royal Albert Hall

The Club has been invited to take part in the SIFD/CCPR display on Saturday 30th September 1995 at the Royal Albert Hall. The display is to celebrate the sixtieth year of the Central Council for Physical Recreation. The Club took part in the display for their fiftieth year. The display will be of Romanian dances and produced by Frances Horrocks. There will be about six main rehearsals, mostly in the Midlands, possibly one or two in London, plus local rehearsals. If Rainmakers want to do this display it will require a leader to attend the workshop in January to learn the dances. There was interest shown by the Club so the committee will find out more information about the event and also try and find someone to go and learn the dances.

11.3 Bingen Wine Festival

Belinda thanked both Richard and Jill for the work they had done for this trip. Richard and Jill were each presented with a group photo of all the people who went on the trip. Jill was given a plate signed on the back by the Bingen dance group.

11.4 Nuit St Georges

The Hitchin Town Twin committee has asked if the Club would be interested in going to Nuit St Georges next year (1995) or 1996. There was interest shown by the Club, so the committee will contact the Town Twin committee to see if we can be invited and also if we can negotiate the dates.

11.5 Hitchin Gathering

Belinda said the rehearsal dates for the Gathering have now been set and will be put up on the notice board at the Club.

11.6 Honorary Life Member

Roy queried why Jill still pays her weekly subs when she is an honorary life member. After consulting the constitution Richard apologized for misinterpreting this rule. Belinda said from now on Jill should not pay when attending the Club.

11.7 SIFD Sunday Dance

Jill asked if the Club had received the request from the SIFD to run either the September or December SIFD dance. If asked, the Club preferred to do the December dance.

11.8 St Michael's Church Hall

Richard reported that the hall committee have refunded the Club £25 for the inconvenience caused by the problems with the floor.

In conclusion, Belinda thanked Jill and Peter for their hospitality and presented them with a present. The meeting closed at 9.56pm.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1994-95

<u>INCOME</u>		
<u>1993/94</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1994/95</u>
932.95	Weekly subscriptions	973.25
38.75	Party	48.75
20.00	Collection for Kelsey	-
		1022.00

	<u>EVENTS</u>	
68.00	Anniversary dance	226.00
96.90	Day courses	192.10
720.00	Displays	20.00
43.00	Workshops	68.00
52.50	Sale of costumes	-
275.00	T-shirts	-
-	Bingen	1328.56
-	Albert Hall rehearsals	17.00
		1851.66

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	
67.50	Annual subscriptions	75.00
6.72	Interest	12.79
		87.79

	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	
235.00	Grant	

-----		-----
2558.32		2961.45

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
<u>1993/94</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1994/95</u>
696.00	Hire of Hall	743.00
23.30	SIFD affiliation fee	23.30
32.24	Tapes, instructions, videos etc	9.49
26.08	Insurance	42.91
29.27	Squash	30.93
2.95	Party (Band in 1994)	20.00
40.00	Raynauds Association	-
-	Slipstop	28.00
41.60	Miscellaneous	14.87

	<u>EVENTS</u>	
92.89	Anniversary dance	171.65
104.41	Day courses	131.80
27.00	Hire of hall - workshops	72.00
112.00	Hire of hall - practises	101.00
27.60	Travelling expenses	14.13
50.00	Display fee	-
50.00	SIFD donation	-
29.00	Gathering expenses	33.20
56.00	Costumes	-
275.00	T-shirts	-
-	Bingen	1347.41
7.89	Miscellaneous expenses	1.90

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	
17.20	Postage	14.43
45.00	Phone	6.50
25.83	Stationery etc.	24.20
2.70	Newsletters	2.75
9.45	Scrapbook	3.09
-	Miscellaneous expenses	3.45

	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	
56.91	Speaker/Speaker Stand	115.66
495.56	Radio microphone	-

2375.88		2955.67
182.44	Excess of income over expenditure	5.78
-----		-----
2558.32		2961.45

Notes attaching to the accounts

1. Weekly subs. - 1145 @ 85p
2. There are still some hats and, I believe one or two costumes awaiting sale.
3. Hire of hall for practises:-
Gathering - £58.00
Displays - £20.00
Albert Hall - £23.00
4. The sum insured on our equipment insurance has increased due to the purchases made over the last 18 months.
5. The travelling expenses under the Events section were for Louise's trip to Solihull. She was obtaining full details of the dances for the Albert Hall display before the rehearsals.
6. The small loss on the trip to Bingen was due to a present being bought by the club for the Mayor.

I have audited the accounts and confirm that they are a true record of the financial activities of the club.



BILL THORNE - AUDITOR

2558.32	Net Income	2961.45
2375.85	Net Expenditure	2955.67
-----		-----
182.44	Excess of income over expenditure	5.78
1052.54	Balance brought forward	1234.98
-----		-----
1234.98	Balance carried forward	1240.76
-----		-----

60.93	Cash in hand	60.47
1174.05	Bank	1180.29
-----		-----
1234.98		1240.76
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance)

Balance brought forward	408.14
Events Profit	NIL

Purchases	408.14
	115.66

Balance carried forward	292.48

1234.98	Balance	1240.76
408.14	Equipment Fund	292.48
-----		-----
826.59	Working Capital	948.28
-----		-----

Friday, 24th November 1995.

Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting.

The A.G.M. was held at St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth this year. The meeting opened at 8.05 p.m. and 19 people were present at the start but this number increased to 22 before the meeting was over.

Copies of the Minutes of the 1994 meeting had been distributed to every member together with the current Balance Sheet.

Belinda, in the Chair, made a few comments on suggestions made by members last year. She pointed out that the following matters raised had been carried out:—

Requests for displays had been vetted by the committee and only half those received were put to the club.

Notices on Friday evenings were kept shorter. Name badges were worn at the Post Gathering Party. (Betty pointed out that the suggestion was made for the first meeting of a new term — not when everybody knew each other!)

Members had been encouraged to own at least one costume.

Beginners workshops were for dancers only — not the general public.

Members were asked to definitely commit themselves to taking part in a display when the Club is first asked. This was tried but it proved to be impractical.

A reduced Newsletter had been produced with a list of forthcoming dates on it.

The Hitchin Town Twinning committee had asked if Rainmakers were interested in going to Nuit St. Georges in 1996. The committee said "Yes" but they need as much advance notice of the date as possible.

Belinda then asked if there were any other matters arising from last year's Minutes which anyone wished to raise.

Terry asked why it was decided last year not to actively seek new members. It was explained that new members were always welcome but at that time we had a high attendance on a Friday evening (up to 50 sometimes) and as many beginners as could be coped with. The situation is now different.

Terry then promoted a discussion on the Newsletter which he produces. He feels it should contain articles, reports, etc. This was discussed further in Any Other Business.

Belinda thanked ^{at Rainmakers} Louise for teaching the Romanian dances in preparation for the S.I.F.D.'s contribution to the Spotlight on Dance show at the Royal Albert Hall in September. Louise did vital work as co-ordinator and by attending all the rehearsals.

Belinda reminded the club that the Rainmakers will be running the S.I.F.D. dance at Cecil Sharp House on December 3rd. Roy will be M.C. for the first half of the evening and Jill will M.C. the second half. Richard and Terry will each call one dance.

The next item on the agenda was the

Chairman's report. In stepping down, Belinda thanked the present committee for their support and all the work they did particularly Isobel, Maria, Graham, Mark and Richard. She also told us that Curle had been co-opted to the committee. Belinda also thanked all those who regularly do jobs for the club especially Jill as dance teacher, Ann (publicity) Maria (wardrobe) Moya (refreshments), Terry (Newsletter) Betty (Scrapbook) were also mentioned. Clive and Kathy who had been on the committee were thanked.

The club is grateful to all those who run Friday evenings whether frequently or occasionally. A lot of people now take on this task but Belinda added a plea for more people to offer to M.C. and run displays. "Every help will be given" she said.

On behalf of the club, Richard thanked Belinda.

Mark, as Secretary, then gave a resume of the club's activities during the past year. These included 5 displays, 6 Beginners Workshops The Anniversary Dance, Jill and Peter's Wedding Anniversary Dance (at which some of us danced the Anniversary Waltz, International Style and the Candle Dance. There were also 5 Garden Evenings and 2 Day Courses.

Mark was thanked by Belinda.

The Treasurers report was given by Richard. Adrian queried two items on the Balance Sheet for which Richard apologised as "typographical errors". There was little discussion on the club's finances. The accounts were accepted.

Bill Thorne was to be asked to be auditor next

year.

Richard proposed that the annual subscription due on January 1st, need not be increased, neither need the weekly payment by members.

No voting was necessary for the officers and new committee members. They are:—

Chairman,	Mark Balaam,
Secretary,	Curle
Treasurer	Richard Thom
Committee	Graham Styles Isobel Lamont,

This leaves the committee with one person short. Some-one may be co-opted at a later date.

Any Other Business.

Mark thanked Belinda for her work as Chairman for four years and for often teaching dances. He said that she had encouraged him personally and had also brought the running of the club into the nineties.

To warm applause a gift was presented to Belinda.

With Mark in the Chair, other business continued.

Belinda told the club that the S.I.F.D. will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary in 1996. Several events will commemorate it including a dance in October. A booklet will be produced wherein clubs will report on their activities during the past ten years. So far, the only club to send in its report is Rainmakers. Betty was thanked.

Details of the next Hitchin Gathering display were given. The dances are Makkil Tiki and Arkeu Danzet, ~~Spanish~~ ^{French} Basque dances.

Rehearsals will be held as follows: —

Tuesday, 5th December, Radwell, 8-10.00 pm.

Sunday, 7th January, Radwell, 2-4.30 pm.

Sunday, 21st January, Radwell, 2-4.30 pm.

Tuesday, 13th February, Stevenage, 8-10.00 pm.

Tuesday, 20th February, Stevenage, 8-10.00 p.m.

(venue probably the Mormon Church Hall, Buckthorn Avenue, Stevenage.)

* See next page.

Terry instigated a discussion on the Newsletter. The general feeling was that the list of dates is very useful. Articles would be willingly accepted if they are offered but they are not ^{essential} ~~necessary~~. People should not be urged to produce something. Reports of events are in the Scrapbook, which is kept as an archive.

It was decided that, for one year, newsletters would be sent to irregular attenders at the club. Richard offered to do it.

Betty thanked all the people who gave photographs and submitted reports for the Scrapbook.

Belinda told us that we now have a lockable cupboard at St. Michael's Hall for our use.

Moya has retired from faithful service, providing the club with drinks every week and at parties and rehearsals. This involved humping heavy bottles and washing mugs for several years. Belinda gave her a present on our behalf and told her to just come and enjoy herself in future.

The meeting closed at 9.15 pm.

* Omission from Any Other Business.

Mark read out a letter from Jill and Peter regretting that they would be unable to attend the A.G.M. They also told us that they had recently used the theatre tokens given to them by the club on the occasion of their Wedding Anniversary. They have been to see "A Little Night Music" at the National Theatre and enjoyed the show very much.

c/o General Deliveries. Orange Walk. BELIZE C.A.
Monday, October 30, 1995

Dear Betty,

I find myself at a bit of a loss when I haven't been on any major excursions ! Everyone at home seems to enjoy colourful descriptions of exotic places, but after 14 months (!) whats exotic to Brits, particularly on a grey November day, now seems commonplace to me. You will have had a look at my account of going to Guyana which I sent to Barbara - so I won't repeat that here.

Instead I'll have a go at the commonplace - such as - people in the shops wearing dramatic clothes, for example - ladies in shiny satin sheath dresses with a slit up the side, a cowl or shawl neckline, with a rose and organdie sleeves at 10.00 on a Monday morning. Ruches, frills and lace everywhere and as for colour - well its sometimes shiny black, but often magenta or scarlet. I saw a teenager in a quite ordinary white tee shirt and black cycling shorts - but over the shorts she had on a layered scarlet lace skirt with, I think they are called, handkerchief points, rather than a straight hem. (I am sure my punctuation is amiss in that circuitous sentence). I don't imagine there'd be much interest in my version of window cleaning - unscrew the mosquito screens and give them a stiff brush - and the dance I did when bitten by red ants whilst rinsing my undies at the rain water vat would hardly merit repetition at a display - not even as a potential tarantella.

Its the rainy season with a vengeance now. Luckily we have had only the fringe of a hurricane. Roxanne, it was called and it hit The Yucatan peninsula to the north of us with some force. The rain on the Mexican mountains flowed into our rivers so that we have five villages under water. No lives lost, but considerable disruption and a huge loss of crops. Nothing like the sort of disaster they get in India or Africa but quite sobering in this little world. Now we are waiting to see what Tanya will do - Sebastian simply fizzled out. Apparently its the most hurricanes in one season since the early 30's - and the season goes on into November. Mostly, of course, they hit the smaller West Indian islands and the States. Belize hasn't had a big one for 34 years.

I keep hearing about concerts and operas and festivals from friends like yourself. Well, I went to a concert - so there ! First it involved four and a half hours on the buses - mostly in the rain, with the windows shut and everyone gently steaming in the heat. My destination was San Ignacio - a small town in the hills near the Guatemalan border. In some ways its quite sophisticated as it gets a lot of tourists - well more sophisticated than Orange Walk. A string trio was to play in Martha's Kitchen - a tiny restaurant with seating for about twenty - and a yard on the road (a terrace ?!) that has about four tables with umbrellas. The trio was led by my friend Sharon, a VSO who teaches stringed instruments in Belize and who conducts the Belize Chamber Group - bet you didn't think we had one ! The two others were two Belizeans from the group. We started off outside on the 'terrace' - an audience of mainly ex-pats and tourists, but with local;s standing on the street corners. then the heavens opened and we crammed inside. I was mystified by the presence of about a dozen local youths and wondered why

they were there - until I realised that they'd been brought along by Father Joe - an English catholic priest who runs their boarding school. Anyway we munched on free mini pizzas and drank fresh pineapple juice and strained to hear Eine Kleine Nacht Musik over the drumming of the rain. Actually they played rather well and I am pleased that I have arranged for the whole Group - about twelve of them- to give a concert in Orange Walk Library in December. We playing safe and only printing 50 tickets.

I am so glad you liked the apron - it was the only way I could think of sharing some of the experience with you. I like your letters so much because they remind me of things I know. For example, you describer going to Harlington - I remember going with the Club to somewhere near Luton to do something similar - I remember Henry and Marrie doing the Mexican Hat dance - and also feeling quite proud of myself as I could actually help some of the members of the club we were visiting- the one eyed leading the blind. And as for the Kirov and Sidmouth - its like seeing an advert for Perrier in the middle of the Sahara. Day in day out life here can be very dull - unless you are into Beauty Contests which seem to occur every few weeks. Every organisation, including Help age clubs, has its Queen and so does every school. Every week too some school or club has a fund-raising which always consists of selling fried or barbecued chicken with rice and beans. I still desperately miss the radio, despite having a collection now of over fifty music tapes. Sometimes I get a taped BBC broadcast and even the announcements are a pleasure. Here the news is often very parochial - e.g. two men from Belize have passed Part 1. of the LL.B on the Distance Learning Programme of the University of the West Indies (as a headline !) and the actually delivery is awful with stresses in the wrong places - the Government has decided...

Work has been quite satisfying as I have been visiting some of the teachers I taught last year and finding that , albeit in small ways, there are some changes to their practise. But sadly , hard times are coming. The country is gong through a financial crisis and as part of the retrenchment the Govt. plans to knock \$6million off the public wages bill over the next five months. This means either job losses for teachers - or an all round 10% salary cut. In April this year, they agreed to forego the annual rise and accept a wage freeze for two years, so teacher morale is very low. Today they are having a one day strike/demonstration. I don't know how well attended it will be as there is always some fear of reprisals in the form of sudden postings to schools in the bush !

Once again I am disconcerted by the absence of familiar seasonal markets. Halloween is celebrated US style - and I just haven't been able to think of a local fruit that you could substitute for an apple in our traditional games - or of anything like a chestnut to roast. And, of course, there will be no bonfire night. Schools don't put on carol concerts or nativity plays either - the last three weeks of term are always taken up by 'tests' . .

Best wishes to all,

Janice

Sunday, 3rd December 1995.

S.I.F.D. Dance at Cecil Sharp House, London.

The Rainmakers were responsible for organising this month's dance for the S.I.F.D. The Annual General Meeting is held from 4.00 p.m. and the dance follows at 7.00 p.m. according to the usual pattern. As it is near to Christmas this monthly dance is regarded as special and some members living outside the London area make an effort to attend it and the A.G.M.

I am told that the A.G.M. had a very small attendance - about twenty five people at most but well over sixty people were at the dance. I noticed several faces from the Midlands and a couple from Swansea.

Twenty-two Rainmakers were there, partly because it was "our" dance and partly because some of us were to give a display of the Fackeltanz from the Italian Alps.

All the dances on the programme are in the Rainmakers' repertoire and seemed to be known by most of the people present. Jill had colour coded them as on ski-run maps as Easy (green) Moderate (red) Difficult (black) to help anyone uncertain about joining in anything unfamiliar.

The first M.C. was Roy Bowtell. Richard Thom gave him a short break by introducing an English dance, "Elverton Grove" with music by Handel.

About twenty minutes before the end of

the First Half, sixteen Rainmakers retired to light their candles - Adrian actually prepared them for us. The glass candle holders had been covered in red and green acetate sheet to give a pretty Christmassy effect. We hoped that there would be no accidental spillage of hot wax or the decoration might have gone up in flames! Horror! However, all went well and nothing seemed to go wrong with the dancing. Martin Butler played his accordion beautifully for us, in the dark. Our audience who had gone to one end of the hall, gave us warm applause.

The Interval Dance, which followed our Candle Dance, was led by Fiona Howarth. Her theme was 'Dances from Swansea' - the reunion week held in August this year.

The M.C. for the Second Half was Jill Bransby. (having chaired the A.G.M. before the dance.)

During this half Terry Reid led the company in Alexandrovsky, a Russian social dance.

The time flew by, with the majority of the dancers on the floor for the whole evening. People said how much they had enjoyed the evening and many complimentary remarks came our way for the Candle Dance.

Thanks are due to the S.I.F.D. Band who played so well, including Martin Butler. Also to our M.C.'s, the programme planners and members of our club who manned the door, put up blackout prepared candles, printed programmes and all

who contributed to a successful dance.

Programme. M.C. First Half - Roy Bowtell.

- Ssulaam Ya'achov.
- Cherkessia Kafula
- Chotis de la Frontera
- Santis Masoulke
- Karapyet
- Tota Antigua

- Elverton Grove led by Richard Thom.

- Mayim Mayim
- Ba Pardess
- Because
- Russian Lyrical
- Steiregger
- Musica Nisheret
- Jesusita en Chihuahua
- El Corrido
- Doudlebska Polka
- Windmill
- Shir Ha' Chatuna
- Hora Hadera

MC for Interval Dance - Fiona Howarth
Dances from Swansea.

MC for Second Half - Jill Bransky.

- A Gota
- Rondon

- Kak Pri Balkje
 - Tarabe Tapatis
 - Pariser Polka

 - Alexandrovsky led by Terry Reid

 - Trekarls Polska
 - Tarantella 'Fasola'
 - Mari Mariko
 - Bailecito
 - Levi Jackson's Rag
 - Nikolos
 - Deux Deux Deux
 - En Allant aux Chataignes
 - Neopolitan Tarantella
 - Hambo
 - Rav Brachot
 - Hora Femeilor
- } Omitted because of lack of time

Key.

- = Easy
- = Moderate
- = Difficult

(N.B. Rainmakers' and skiing convention. Not Merton Park's coding.)



RAINMAKERS FOLKDANCE GROUP



NEWSLETTER No. 12

Dec. 1995

Rainmakers is a club that exists to enjoy folkdancing from all over the world.

We meet most Fridays in St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, at 20.00 hrs.

For further information contact: Mark (Chairman) 01462 454210
or Curle (Sec.) 01462 490071

FUTURE EVENTS

15th Dec 20.00-23.00 hrs	Christmas Party - bring food & drink & costumes
22nd Dec 20.00-22.00 hrs	Last meeting for 1995
1st Jan '96 20.00-23.00hrs	Party - bring food & drink - £1.00 - at Ickleford Village Hall, callers: Jill Bransby & Pat Gray Roy Bowtell
5th Jan 20.00-22.00 hrs	First meeting for 1996, bring resolutions !
7th Jan 14.00-16.30 hrs	Gathering rehearsal at Radwell Village Hall
21st Jan ,, ,,	,, ,, ,, ,, ,,
13th Feb 20.00-22.00 hrs	,, ,, TBA
20th Feb 20.00-22.00 hrs	,, ,, TBA Dress-French Basque
2nd Mar	The Hitchin Gathering



HAPPY CHRISTMAS
AND A SPLENDID
NEW YEAR



Christmas

CARNIVAL

Letchworth Town Centre
Saturday 9th December 1995
11 am - 3 pm

Fun for all the family



Rainmakers International Folk Dancers

Supported by: The Chamber of Trade, Town Centre Forum, Letchworth Shopping Centre,
The Heritage Foundation, Education 2000 and North Hertfordshire District Council

Designed & Printed by North Hertfordshire District Council - Print Unit

SATURDAY 9th DECEMBER 1995

CHRISTMAS CARNIVAL PROGRAMME



Time	Entertainment	Location
11.00	St Andrews Scottish Dancers	The Square (Arcade if wet weather)
	Street Entertainers	Eastcheap/Leys Avenue/Arcade/Wynd/The Square
11.30	Letchworth Morris Men	Eastcheap/Leys Avenue/Arcade/Wynd/The Square
12 noon	Rainmakers International Folk Dancers 2 x 30 mins	The Square
13.00	Town Band/Arcadians - carol singing TBC	The Square (chairs will be provided)
13.30	Letchworth Morris Men (as 11.30)	Eastcheap/Leys Avenue/Arcade/Wynd/The Square
14.00	Street Entertainers	Eastcheap/Leys Avenue/Arcade/Wynd/The Square
3pm	Finish	
All day:	Town Crier Balloon sellers - NHDC Letchworth Roundtable Sleigh Crime Prevention Trailer Santa's Grotto Letchworth Lions Float	Central Approach The Square The Square Commerce Way Arena Parade

St John Ambulance volunteers will be on duty 11am - 3pm

Christmas Carnival
Saturday 9th December 1995
Letchworth Town Centre
11.00 a.m. - 3.00 p.m.

Handbills had been put through every letterbox in Letchworth and advertisements placed in the local newspapers to publicise the Christmas Carnival before the Rainmakers had definitely agreed to take part. We noted that Rainmakers International Folk Dancers were given prominent billing. Bearing in mind that the North Herts Council had been very generous to our club in the giving of grants towards equipment, many members were willing to help out in a display but not many of us were able to dance on December 9th at short notice, having prior engagements. This included myself and Henry, so I write what I was told about our ^{club's} part in the event.

It was a bitterly cold day. White hoar frost clung to trees and railings all day. The dancers wondered whether any members of the public would stop to watch them or whether they would hurry on with their Christmas shopping. Eleven Rainmakers wearing their red/black/white Spanish Basque costumes (with many thermal garments underneath) assembled outside W.H. Smith's shop on the Square, Letchworth in time to dance as requested, at 12 noon. A side of Morris Men were performing on their pitch so they had to wait in the cold. They noted that the paving stones had been laid

unevenly, so care would be needed. A drain in the vicinity was another hazard.

Before long they could begin their programme. Many people stopped to watch and seemed to enjoy the dancing very much. Jill had devised a varied programme that included quite a lot of fast dances. The dancers soon became hot. One hour is a long time to keep up a vigorous programme of international dances and they did not have enough people to take turns. However, the participants said they enjoyed the experience very much and many complimentary remarks came their way. They certainly looked colourful as can be seen in the photographs taken by Curle's friend. (One is on the cover of this Scrapbook.

After dancing the Rainmakers were given some souvenir balloons as they repaired to a nearby restaurant for bowls of piping hot soup and cheese and biscuits.



Programme - 1 hour.

- ① Rav Brachot
- ② Neopolitan Tarantella
- ③ Parson's Farewell.
- ④ Kreuz Köenig
- ⑤ Sansvaerill
- ⑥ Tarantella Fasola.
- ⑦ Dorset Four-hand Reel.
- ⑧ Hora Hadera
- ⑨ Jesusita en Chihuahua
- ⑩ Bourée de la Chapelotte
- ⑪ Zemer Atik
- ⑫ Salty Dog Rag
- ⑬ Ba Pardess
- ⑭ Horlepiep
- ⑮ Hakke Toone
- ⑯ Simmchu Na
- ⑰ Kak Pri Balkje
- ⑱ Rav Brachot
- ⑲ Neopolitan Tarantella.

Dancers: -

Mark, Patti, Terry, Maria, Jill, Julie, Adrian, Sue,
Cusle, Graham, Belinda.

Well done and many thanks for dancing on
the club's behalf at a very busy time of the year.



LOUD HAILER: Town crier John Moules (left) with Cllr Ian Mantle, chair of North Herts District Council

They've got a lot to shout about

FESTIVE shopping was made more fun on Saturday when Letchworth staged its first Christmas carnival.

A town crier let everyone know what was going on in Eastcheap, the Arcade, The Wynd and Leys Avenue.

The entertainment included the Rainmakers International Folk Dancers, St Andrews Scottish Dancers with carol singing by the Arcadians, stilt walkers, fire swallowers and jugglers.

Meanwhile, there were free

balloons for youngsters as well as shop window treasure hunts and Santa's grotto in Commerce Way. His sleigh was also used to help members of the Round Table with their Christmas fundraising.

The carnival was organised by the Chamber of Trade, Town Centre Forum, Letchworth Shopping Centre, Heritage Foundation, Education 2000 and North Herts District Council.

● See Friday's *Gazette* for more pictures of festive fun.



Rainmakers dancing in Letchworth on
Saturday, December 9th, 1995
Pictures given by Terry.

Rainmakers' Christmas Party.
Friday, December 15th. 1995

There was a large turnout of members (at least 30) for the Christmas Party on Friday evening, proving that it was a good idea to hold it not too close to Christmas.

As usual, most people wore an international folk costume and all brought along a mass of delicious food and drink (i.e. contributions to the bowls of punch.) It was a really festive occasion and all joined in most of the dances from 8.00 p.m. till 11.00 p.m.

The first break in the dancing was to listen to Katka singing five Czech folk songs all about love. She sang them beautifully.

During the break for refreshments Curle presented Jill with three small parcels, neatly gift-wrapped American style. The first contained a steamy paperback novel called "Remember the Tarantella." (much laughter from the company). The second package contained a Christmas tree decoration and the third (the real present) a silver brooch. We all applauded to thank Jill for all the hard work she does for the club throughout the year.

After more dancing we paused for a while to play a game. It would not be a Christmas party without a game. We were divided into teams and, in turn had to mime the titles of dances as whispered to a team representative by Jill. We must not dance the dance to help

our companions to guess so there were many amusing antics to mime The Windmill, Picking up Sticks, Kreuz Koenig, En Atlant aux Chataignes, Tiedlepatz and others.

Soon it was time for a few more dances before collecting up our Christmas cards and, wishing all a "Happy Christmas" ^{before} making for home.

December 22nd was an ordinary club night but only ten people went to support Adrian and Sue who, just as busy as everyone else, had prepared a very pleasant programme for us.

Maybe the term should end with the party next year?



December
1995

Card bought by Claire in the French Pyrenees
Is this what we are expecting to see at
the Hitchin Gathering when some Rain makers
"display" Basque dances!
Note the clogs.



"My very own concert in Orange Walk,"

A concert organised by Annie. A string orchestra conducted by another V.S.O. organiser.

Extracts from Annie's letter to me - written
December 6th 1995 but not posted till Dec 14th,
- recently received.



Garifuna dancers with drummers. (It is a pity she put the photograph into the letter whilst the ink was wet.)

There was a lot of Garifuna dancing in November. The dancing was wonderful - much more interesting than the G. dancing I have seen before. They did a full range. Some, like their men's mask dances where they are dressed in dried vines, look just like African witch doctor dances. Others show a heavy European influence so that they perform the figures of dances I vaguely recognise - but with African steps. These were quite startling because the Garifuna pure dancing does not involve holding hands with your partner or circling with them. The pure

Garifuna dances tend to be in a line round a circle, then individuals or couples move to the centre and do solos, Although they don't touch they are very graphically, and sometimes monotonously, sexual.

Other dances were also masked with a monster figure, dressed to represent the white master, and I suppose were satirical as well as vulgar. One included a figure rather like the Hobby in English dance. In these dances the men take female parts too.

Many of the dances tell a story - "Sheila White goes to visit her sick sister" was one.

They ended with my favourite - "I was walking along the beach near Hopkins and saw a man lying on the sand. I got a stick and poked him to see if he was alive or dead." Great stuff!

The music for all the dances is simply drums and gourds - but with voice accompaniment - very powerful and also very African sounding.

A crowd of young Garifuna men at the back drank a lot of rum and beers and became very excited and noisy - urging the dancers on and gradually moving down the centre aisle, daring each other to join in. They were invited up on stage and the bravest did go, did a few pathetic steps and ^{then} retreated rapidly.

Dance hooligans!

MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL FOLK ART

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AND THE BEST OF BRITISH TOO!

To complement the skills of our top guest performers from overseas, we invite some of the best **British** dance teams to join us as well. There is a lot more variety in this country than you might think - be prepared for some pleasant surprises!

PARKS, PUBS AND SHOPPING CENTRES

You don't always need to buy a ticket to enjoy the Festival! Through the generous support of local shops and businesses we are able to bring some parts of the show direct to you. Watch out in your local **high street** or **shopping centre**, or outside your **favourite pub** - you might be lucky and catch one of our **free 'taster' performances**.

If you like what you see - buy a ticket for a concert and see the full show!

Advance Notices

Celebrating our Links with the Rest of the World

PARTICIPATION

Some like to sit and watch - others want to get up and join in! We organise **workshops** and **ceilidhs** for people of all ages and all abilities to have a go for themselves. Often you can join in at one of the popular **open - air performances** where informality and fun are the main ingredients.

GETTING INVOLVED

We actively recruit a large number of local people to help run this satisfying and fun event.

There are **many different things to do**. Some people become stewards for our stunning evening concerts whilst others become hosts and offer Bed and Breakfast to a couple of our overseas guests. Some prefer to help out backstage with technical things like sound and lights. Many people volunteer to help in more than one way.

Everybody is welcome to join in - we can always find something to suit you, whatever your skill or preference. Needless to say, anybody who speaks another language is especially welcome!



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Work with **young people** is an important part of the Festival. We collaborate with local teachers to devise projects that support or compliment the curriculum. It has to be meaningful as well as fun!

Teacher, parent or governor, if you are connected with a **school, college** or **dance studio** in any way, call us to find out more.

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The Milton Keynes International Festival is a high profile, affordable sponsorship opportunity for any business, large or small. Our wide range of sponsors include **large multi-nationals, regional utilities, local companies** and **small family firms**.

Sponsorship packages can always be tailored to your needs. We have a range of special **low-cost options** for smaller businesses and sole traders. Although we need to raise a certain amount of money each year, practical support and **gifts in kind** are always equally welcome.

For further details of how your company could benefit call us today.

MAILING LIST

If you would like to join our free **mailing list** and be one of the first to receive details of our next Festival, send your name and address to:

Milton Keynes International Festival,
30 St. John Street,
Newport Pagnell, MK16 8HJ

Milton Keynes International Festival - 01908 610564

WALSWORTH ROAD BAPTIST CHURCH
HITCHIN



HELEN PALMER

1953 — 1996

Funeral Service
Monday, 29th January 1996
at 2 pm

Helen was a member of Rainmakers for several years but she was dogged by illness and had to give up dancing which she loved.

We are sad to hear that she died recently. Several Rainmakers went to her funeral.

Order of Service

The Service will be conducted by:-
The Reverend Ian Green

SENTENCES

HYMN

NOW thank we all our God,
With hearts and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In whom His world rejoices;
Who, from our mothers arms,
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
Through all our life be near us,
With ever-joyful hearts
And blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace
And guide us when perplexed,
And free us from all ills
In this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
The Father now be given,
The Son, and Him who reigns
With them in highest heaven;
The one eternal God,
Whom earth and heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
And shall be evermore.

Opening Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Scripture Reading

Tribute

Reading

The Prayers

HYMN

LORD of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust, ever child-like, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking, and give us, we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith,
Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe,
Be there at our labours, and give us, we pray,
Your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace,
Your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace,
Be there at our homing, and give us, we pray,
Your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm,
Whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm,
Be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray,
Your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

BLESSING

All our friends will be welcome at our home afterwards

51 Benslow Lane, Hitchin.

SUNDAY 4 FEBRUARY 1996

BBC 1

5.20pm Black Hearts in Battersea

CHOICE Fifth in a six-part drama serial. A new plot to assassinate the Duke of Battersea is hatched. See today's choices.

Simon.....WILLIAM MANNERING
Dido.....JADE WILLIAMS
Duke of Battersea.....RONALD PICKUP
Duchess of Battersea.....CELIA IMRIE
Justin.....MATTHEW STEER
Sophie.....GEMMA SEALEY
Eustace Buckle.....PHILIP JACKSON
Dolly Buckle.....ANNETTE BADLAND
Abednego Twite.....STEPHEN MOORE
Ella Twite.....TILLY VOSBURGH
Midwink.....JOHN ALTMAN
Captain Dark.....ROGER BIZLEY
John Daggett.....BARRY EWART
Jeb Scrimshaw.....MARK BURDIS
Fothers.....TOM WISDOM
Gus.....BEN MANGHAM

Adapted by James Andrew Hall from a novel by Joan Aiken; Producer Angela Beeching
Director David Bell Stereo Subtitled ...1814162

Diana's son →

Some members will remember Diana Steer who danced with the Rainmakers in the early days of the club at Albert Street, Stevenage. She taught dance at Bedford College of P.E. and Dance. She taught several dances to us including Cavotte de Pont Avon and several line and circle dances.

Her son, Matthew, was born whilst she was a Rainmaker. He used to attend outdoor displays (with his Daddy) and watch from a pushchair. Now he is an actor and is currently appearing in a serial play on Sunday afternoon television.

The family now live at New Milton, Hampshire. A few years ago Henry and I met Diana, Dave and Matthew Steer at the Sidmouth Folk Festival.

Rehearsal for the Hitchin Gathering in
St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth.



Arku Dantzer.





Musician, Dave McKeegle with the team.
Jill, Patti, Claire, Maria, Margery, Janet, Isabel, Julie
Sue, Barbara.
Clive, Richard, Peter, Adrian, Graham, Mark

February 4th 1996.

A letter from Annie.

Annie has been on an excursion from Belize to Mexico before she returns to the U. K. in April this year.



Street performers who call themselves "Aztecs" - gypsies really.



Indian woman and child, begging.



An authentic religious ceremony known as a "dance".

(This would startle the audience at the Hitchin Crathering, wouldn't it?! B.)

General Delivery
Orange Walk

BELIZE CA.

4th Feb. 96.

Dear Betty,

I have been a poor correspondent of late. ~~and~~ I did not manage to circulate an account of my Christmas trip to Mexico because I am having problems with my computer - or to be more accurate, with the Belizean company that's meant to be repairing it.

Anyway, here are a few snaps for general circulation. The "Aztecs" in the main square I am afraid are simply a Mexican version of New Age hippies - though the costumes are rather fun - if you have the legs. The men flying round the pole are rather more authentic - but it's not my kind of "dance", even though there is no fancy footwork involved. Actually it's more of a religious ceremony than a dance. I didn't go to the Ballet Folklórico, because that seemed rather false. No one in the City was actually in original dress and the Indians were most likely to be simply very poor women and young children begging on the streets. The strangest expressions of indigenous culture come in the Art and the food.

Folk art persists in things like this Nativity scene - and I can't quite work out why the Three Kings are accompanied by a giant chicken; also in very elaborate pottery such as the enclosed Adam + Eve + the Tree of Knowledge.

I had expected to find a lot of Aztec ~~or~~ remains but in the city itself they have only recently found Montezuma's temple. I guess the Conquistadors just obliterated everything. Mind you they erected glorious buildings themselves. The churches, monasteries, convents etc were not to my taste - very heavy and ornate, but the secular buildings are a joy. Beautifully proportioned. The one enclosed was built as the Sustan House and now part of the Mus. of Ed.

Colonnades are a very strong architectural feature, and give one a hint of how society may have functioned in earlier centuries in Europe. In this case, the (hand) printers and public letter writers are still at work.

It was lovely to be in a city again. Aetho' Mexico is notorious for pollution, it was relatively clear over the holiday. The weather was cold and sharp. There was a moderate snowfall in

the surrounding hills which made the volcanoes look magnificent. I enjoyed the amenities very much - unbroken pavements, for one and an enviable Metro system - scrupulously clean and ridiculously cheap. It was, however, unnerving to be reading the adverts and then to catch the notices instructing people to remain calm in the event of "el sismo" - earthquakes.

That, I think, will be my last big trip as I plan to come back in April - but I have a list of "must do"s to get through in Belize including a mountain expedition to a Mayan site which is currently being excavated. I want to soak up more of the reef and the Cayes too - but this year has been much colder than last and I'm now so acclimatized that temperatures between 65° + 75° are definitely not swimming weather!

Things go in fits and starts on the work-front. I have now embarked on a scheme to get the libraries to hold sets of pamphlets explaining various disabilities. Like everything else here, "library" is not quite the same as at home. Obviously, one is prepared for there to be a very reduced selection of books - though I have managed to find something

4.

to read every week. The difference is in how the library is used. It is viewed primarily as a resource for elementary school children, and some at secondary level, to do their "projects" and homework. They look up information in out-of-date encyclopedias and copy it all down assiduously. It's rare to see an adult - even a teacher - in there & often I am the first person in 10 years or so to take a book out. The whole attitude to the printed word here is at least pre-war and more likely Victorian. No, that's wrong, they read their serials avidly. Reading is simply something that children do in school, or adults when they need to pass an exam. I try to get people to understand how this must affect children's attitudes to reading but the concept of the "hidden curriculum" is new & change as yet.

Keep your fingers crossed for me that my word Processor gets fixed before I go - and I will write again.

Oh dear, it's "cold" today - low sixties and my bones ache. I had forgotten what rheumatism was in the general warmth.

Regards to all,
Ann



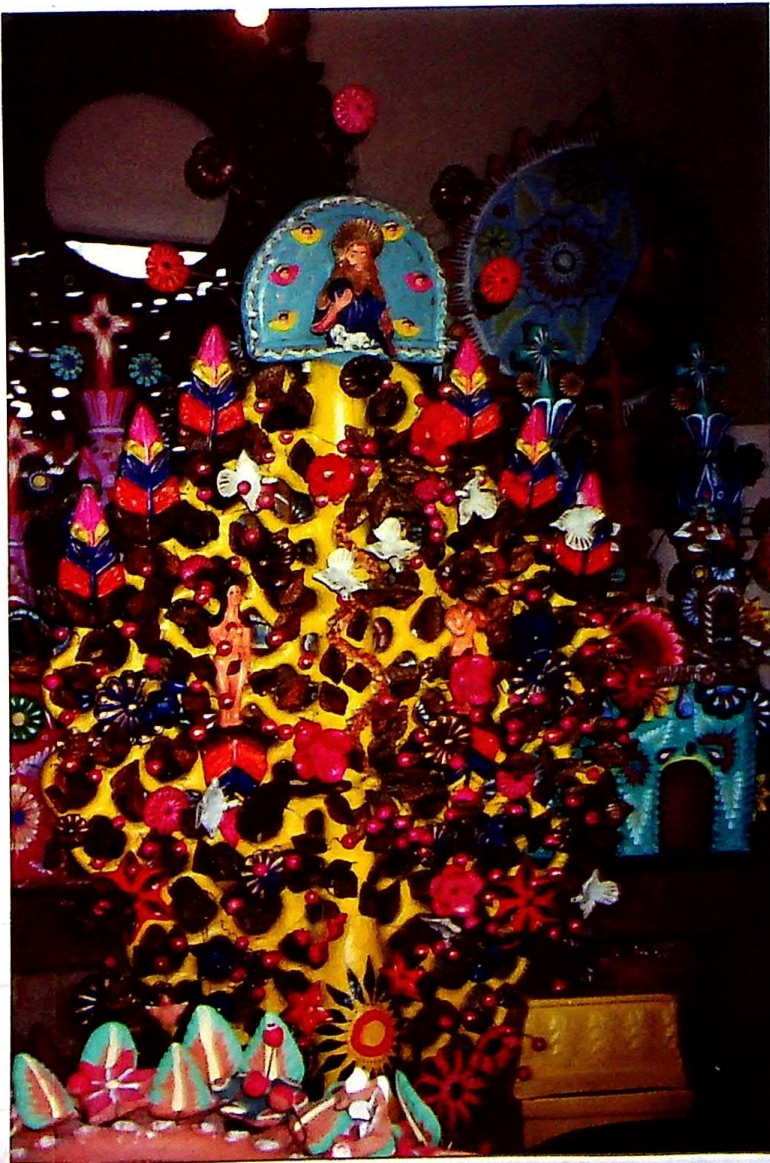
Attractive colonnaded architecture in Mexico City. Custom House - now Ministry of Education,



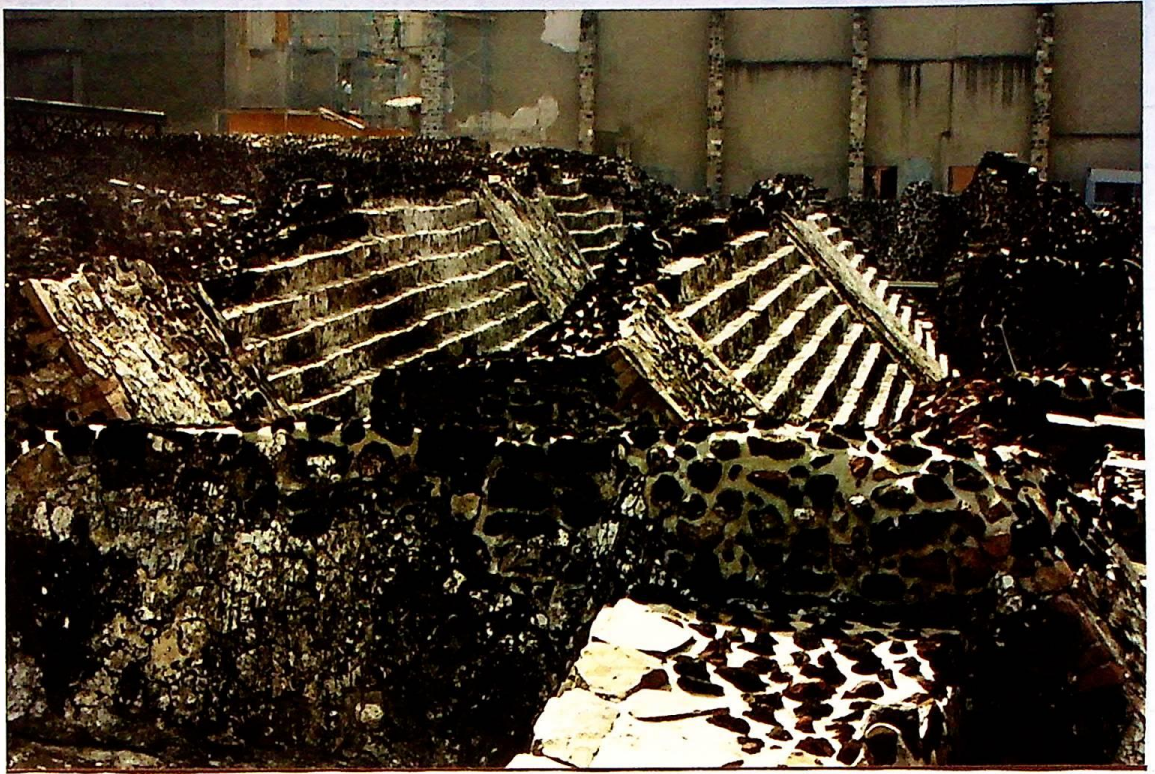
Hand printers and public letter writers at work in Mexico City.



Christmas Nativity scene in the cathedral.



Adam and Eve
and the
Tree of Life
and Knowledge.



Mayan excavations, Mexico.



Montezuma's Temple.

Tuesday, February 27th 1996.

Dancing at St. Andrews Retirement Home.

On Friday Mark read out an S.O.S. from the Matron of St. Andrew's Retirement Home in Hitchin. She said "The old people are very depressed, Would you come next Tuesday to cheer them up?"

This was very short notice but thirteen people said that they would go along to dance. Jill said "Wear any costume and I will devise a programme that you know well."

I am told that it was a very happy evening. Some of the elderly people liked joining in the simple dances such as the Chinese New Year dance where you bow and wish each new partner "A Happy New Year".

To Rainwater

Thank you
very much
from Ann at
ST ANDREWS

Social contact came over a cup of tea. One lady said she thought Graham and Adnan were pirates! (They were wearing Sicilian fishermen's costume.)

Saturday, March 2nd 1996.

38th Hitchin Gathering.

As usual, the Rainmakers will be taking part. "The Gathering" has come to be one of the highlights of the club's year. A team of sixteen members will represent the club by dancing two Basque set dances - one using decorated half hoops and the other using short wooden sticks.

This is the information which Jill provides for the M.C. :-

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP - HITCHIN GATHERING 1996.

Today the Rainmakers are presenting two Basque set dances from the Pyrenees. The first is a women's dance called ARKU DANTZER which is performed by 8 women carrying arches which are decked in the colours of the Basque flag.

*The second dance is called MAKIL TTIKI - this is a small stick dance performed by both men and women. These dances are danced on both the French and the Spanish sides of the Pyrenees.

The origins of the Basque people and their language, customs and dances is a study of great complexity, mystery and speculation, but it is thought that the Basque people may have migrated from Asia during the Bronze Age.

The Rainmakers are wearing French Basque costumes

The music is played by Dave McKeggie on the three-holed pipe and tabor, which is the traditional instrument of the Basques. (It is also used for Morris dancing and Dave is a member of the Whitchurch Morris side.)

The Rainmakers meet virtually every Friday in Letchworth to dance a variety of folk dances from many countries and they welcome new members.

Today they present: BASQUE DANCING WITH ARCHES AND STICKS.

We have just had a very enjoyable afternoon's entertainment at Hitchin Town Hall. The programme was very varied and most performances were of a high standard.

The groups which I particularly enjoyed

Staplers

COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



HITCHIN GATHERING

1996

10p

were the Amersham Garland Dancers who looked very pretty in their flowery skirts and carried two kinds of colourful garlands. They danced some complicated patterns very precisely.

Little boys, aged about eight, from a Hitchin school, gave a very creditable long sword dance performance with no mistakes in it. It is good to see the youngsters taking

THE 38th HITCHIN GATHERING

Saturday 2nd March 1996

Welcome to all our guests, audience and participants to this the Staplers Country Dance Club's 38th annual folk celebration.

We hope you will enjoy our varied programme of country and ritual dancing, music, singing and the two mini-breaks for children's general dancing, plus this year a street theatre item.

As always our thanks go to Roger Nicholls and the Orange & Blue Band for the considerable time and effort put into preparing the many different pieces of music they will be playing this afternoon.

This year we have two new faces on the stage, Charles Day who will be our compere linking the various items together, and Pat Gray who will be leading the children's general dancing. We thank both of them for taking on these two important tasks.

We also thank the 9th Hitchin Guides for providing refreshments and the Hertfordshire Folk Association for looking after the Folk Shop, the St. John Ambulance Brigade for being in attendance and Unicorn Sound Systems for the amplification.

Finally we thank all the participants and members of the Staplers Country Dance Club for their hard work and help in putting on this afternoon's show, not forgetting our guests and audience for coming along to make it such a successful annual event.

(Gathering Committee 1996)

Don't forget that here this evening , from 7.30pm to 11pm ,
we present

THE GATHERING DANCE

Mark Elvins & Weston Country Dance Band

Cabaret Songs: Barry Goodman & Graeme Meek

Tickets available at the door : £5.00 including supper

Licensed Bar by the **Highbury & Whitehill Schools PTA**

THE GATHERING DISPLAYS

The Orange & Blue Band : Leader - Roger Nicholls

Master of Ceremonies : Charles Day

Overture	The Orange & Blue Band
Hemel Hempstead Folk Dance Club	Clarance House The Jersey Mona's Delight
Samuel Lucas J.M.I. School	Kirkby Malzeard Sword Dance
Amersham Garland Dancers	Dawns Blodau Nantgarw Beau Knot
Life & Times	Folk Songs
Quorn Folk Dance Club	<i>Country Dance Sequence</i> Country Capers Stepping Stone Rag McInery's Reel Easter Chick

***** Children's Dancing with Pat Gray *****

Offley Morris Men	<i>Cotswold Tradition</i> Dearest Dickie (Fieldtown) Young Collins (Bledington)
Rainmakers	<i>Basque Dancing with Arches & Sticks</i> Arku Dantzer Makil Ttiki

Contra Folk Dance Group	<i>"Roaring Forties"</i> A Street Party
Tom Cronin	Clog Dancing
Hiel'and Toe	<i>Highland Dances</i> Cockney Jocks A Tribute to Tasmin

***** Children's Dancing with Pat Gray *****

Stevenage Sword	Rapper Sword.
Roundabouts	<i>A Nautical Sequence by Landlocked</i> Anchors Aweigh <i>Roundabouts</i> The Jolly Roger South Sea Crumble
McAler School of Irish Dancing	Irish Dancing
Ballz Unlimited	Juggling Act
Staplers	<i>Stars and Stripes</i> The Dancing Sailor T.A.G. M.C. Squared A Simple Dutch Crossing
Bedford Morris Men	Morris Dances from the North West of England

Please Join us in Circassian Circle

Thanks to William Warder of UNICORN SOUND SYSTEMS for PA
92 Austin Paths, Stevenage. Tel (01438) 360898

Music, Dances, Songs & Souvenirs THE FOLK SHOP in the Small Hall by The Hertfordshire Folk Association	Available all afternoon REFRESHMENTS in the Small Hall by The 9th Hitchin Guides
---	---

STAPLERS COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

The Gathering is organised by the Staplers. Find out more about English Country Dancing by visiting us at our Club nights : 8pm to 10pm on most Monday evenings in Bancroft Hall, Recreation Ground, Bancroft, Hitchin. We are a lively, mixed Club with over 100 members and warmly welcome newcomers. To find out more about us, contact :- Steve Ryan (01462) 730497 or Sandra Welch (01438) 358001.

CONTACTS FOR OUR GUESTS

- Amersham Garland** Mrs Phyllis Chapman.
Amersham (01494) 725962
- Ballz Unlimited** Ben Higgs. Hitchin (01462) 433005
- Bedford Morris** John Frearson. Sandy (01767) 681057
- Contra** Mrs Anne Pennells. Atherstone (01827) 714307
- Tom Cronin** London (0181) 445 9263
- Hemel Hempstead** Mrs Sheila Anderson.
Hemel Hempstead (01442) 68636
- Hiel' and Toe** Mrs H.G.Thomas.
Harpenden (01582) 769607
- Life & Times** Barry Goodman. Hitchin (01462) 456811
- McAler School of Irish Dancing** Ms Deirdre McAler. Luton (01582) 592151
- Offley Morris** Albert Openshaw.
Stevenage (01438) 368455
- Quorn** Mrs Audrey Upton.
Leicester (01162) 783683
- Rainmakers** Mark Balaam. Hitchin (01462) 454210
- Roundabouts** Mrs Pat White. Stevenage (01438) 354488
- Samuel Lucas JMI** Mrs A.Ryan. Hitchin (01462) 456737
- Stevenage Sword** Neil Dunbar. Stevenage (01438) 721622

We look forward to seeing you at

THE 39th HITCHIN GATHERING

on Saturday 1st March 1997.

Saturday, March 2nd 1996.
38th Hitchin Gathering.

As usual, the Rainmakers will be taking part. "The Gathering" has come to be one of the highlights of the club's year. A team of sixteen members will represent the club by dancing two Basque set dances - one using decorated half hoops and the using short wooden sticks. This is the information which Jill provides for the M.C. :-

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an interest in folk dancing and obviously enjoying it.

Our local Offley Morris Men were in fine form (and greater numbers than usual, I thought) dancing two examples of Morris dances in the Cotswold style.

The Rainmakers followed them with two Basque dances using arches and sticks. The M.C. did not read out Jill's prepared notes (which had been requested) but he did point out that stick and hoop dances have evolved in several European countries. Our club team wore French Basque costume - the ladies in red and black skirts, white blouses and white headscarves; the men in white trousers and shirts, red sashes, red berets and white shoes. They looked very smart and the costumes showed up well in this year's brighter lighting. Dave McKeggie, a member of the Whitchurch Morris side, accompanied the dancers on the three-holed pipe and tabor. He had had to work very hard to learn the two tunes needed, with their repeating A, B, C, phrases that repeated in irregular order, and the tabor rhythms which were different from those he had to play on the pipe at the same time. This "one man band" effect sounded, and looked very authentic. On Gathering Day he managed to get the varying speeds just right and so helped the Rainmakers to give an excellent performance.

Following the Basque dances came a fun item danced by Contra, a team from Atherstone and led by well known callers, Barbara and

Bill Kinsman. They called their display "Roaring Forties" and depicted a V.E. Day Street Party complete with forties costumes and characters e.g. a G.I. and a spiv. There was amusing horse play whilst they danced brightly and cheerfully.

It was very nice ^{to see} Tom Cronin, the veteran champion clog dancer on the programme again. He well deserved his rousing round of applause.

The Roundabouts from Stevenage is a fellow local club and several Roundabouts are also members of Rainmakers. They dressed as old fashioned sailors and herring gutting girls to dance a flowing sequence of dances with a nautical theme.

Stevenage Sword have not appeared at the Gathering for several years so it was good to see them back in greater numbers, to give us a very fast, slick, non-stop performance of rapper sword dancing.

The antics of two chaps calling themselves Bally Unlimited kept the audience highly entertained with their juggling and trick cycling. They should have a good career in street theatre ahead of them.

The host club, Staplers, having worked all year planning the 38th Hitchin Gathering, and all day preparing the hall and stewarding, then found the energy to give a well rehearsed display sequence of dances called "Stars and Stripes".

Bedford Morris Men in their clogs and bowler hats completely covered with flowers, rounded off the display dancing in noisy fashion by performing Morris Dances from the North West of

England. The dances looked complicated and the stepping and lines were perfect all through. They were accompanied by their own band which included a drummer. We were rather glad he had muffled his drum this year but he kept them all on the beat.

The teams I have not mentioned in detail must have gone home resolved to rehearse more keep to the beat of their music, especially the Scots and watch their lines. These things do matter a lot.

The other people who contributed to a splendid afternoon's entertainment were "Life and Times" who sang fairly local folk songs very well and of course the Orange and Blue Band who worked tremendously hard. Roger Nicholls and his fellow musicians played "live" to accompany many of the teams and the children's dance spots. Roger also prepared tapes for use in rehearsal and compiled a medley of many of these dance tunes to entertain us as an overture.

Audience and performers were most grateful to the Staplers and all who helped them to run such an enjoyable Hitchin Gathering.



STAPLERS Country Dance Club members Lorraine Tennant, Bernard Bills and Beverley Bills strut their stuff

Lords of the dance

FOLK dancers, musicians and singers put on colourful displays at an annual event in North Herts on Saturday.

The packed afternoon at the town hall was the 38th Hitchin gathering of the Staplers Country Dance Club.

An international array of routines included English and Scottish clog dances.

Monocycling and juggling were family favourites and Samuel Lucas School's young sword dancers proved to be a cut above the rest.

Fun continued into the evening with music from Mark Elvins and the Weston Country Dance Band.

Stevenage Comet.
Wednesday, March 6th.
1996.

Front page in both the local newspapers.

Very attractive pictures but what a pity the reporters do not bother to find out what the Gathering is all about or go into the Town Hall and watch the show.

Scottish clog dances indeed!



Stevenage
Herald. March
7th.

★ STARS of the Hitchin Gathering crossed swords on Saturday when country dancers met for 38th time.

★ The annual gathering, held at Hitchin Town Hall, saw Irish, morris, sword, clog and garland dances as well as juggling and dancing from children.

Card to Rainmakers from Peg who recently had a hip replacement operation.



to you all.

Just to say many thanks for
all the the good wishes, flowers,
phone calls, and cards.

It's lovely to know that folk
are thinking of you at such a time.
I hear the gathering went
off very well, as if it could
ever do otherwise. Remembering

Reminners

I hope it won't be too long
before I see you all again,
even if I'm not dancing?

Bye say thank you all once
again. Love from

Reg.

Very
Many Thanks!!



Rainmakers in the bar at Hitchin Town Hall, waiting to go on. Musician Dave Mc-Keggie in the back row, on right.



Isabel shows what the ladies wore under their skirts!

Rainmakers' Post-Gathering Party.

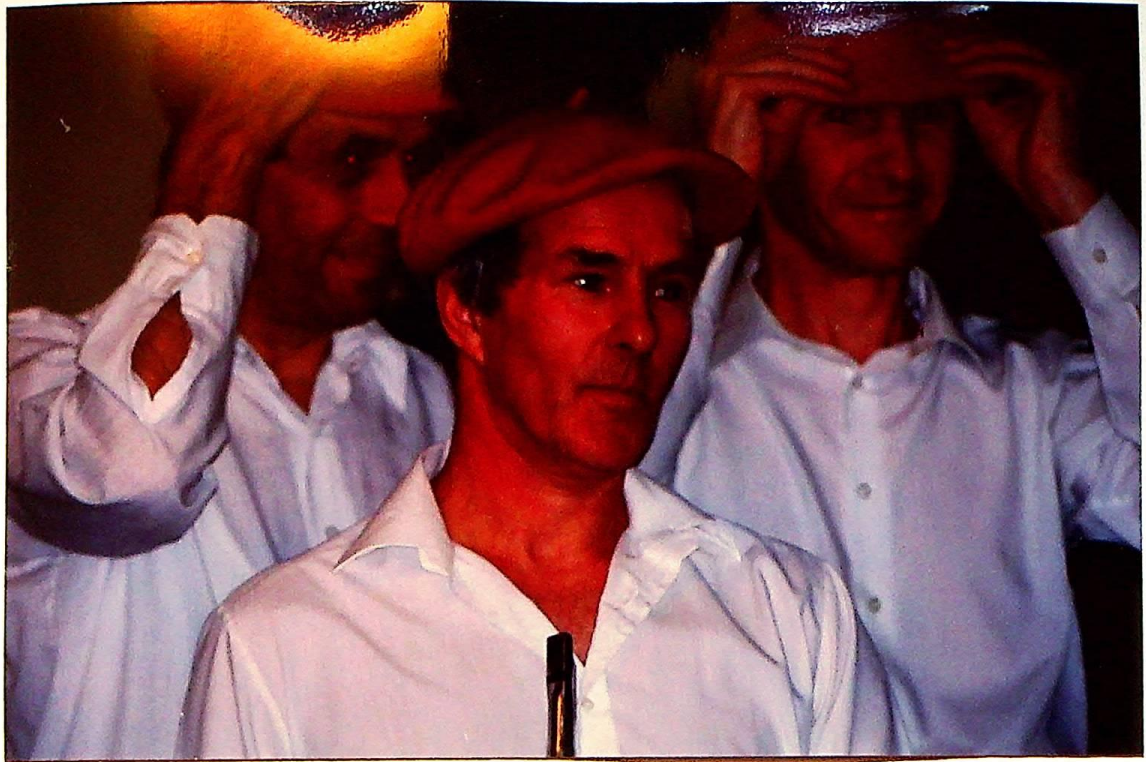
Friday, March 8th 1996 8-11.00 p.m.

To relax after all the practising of the Basque dances, the Rainmakers held a party on Friday instead of the usual club evening.

Louise was in charge, to give Jill a break too. Members enjoyed her programme of dances that included some that were specially requested.

Friday happened to be Graham's birthday and Curle had made a birthday cake. During the refreshment break she slipped away to light the (10!) candles on it, then, when she was ready, we switched the lights off and Curle carried it in while we all sang "Happy Birthday".

Everyone was pleased to hear that Peg, is now out of pain and walking normally (though still with a stick) after her very recent hip replacement operation. With such rapid progress she will soon be dancing with us again.



Basque berets are adjusted to the correct angle before the display.



Makkil Tiki in performance at Hitchin Gathering March 2nd 1996.



COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



Items from the Herts. Folk magazine, "Puddingstone" May, 1996.

HITCHIN GATHERING 2 MARCH 1996

I first took part in the Gathering in 1987, six months after starting with the **ROUNDERBOUTERS** of Stevenage, so 1996 marked my 10th appearance. I must say that I look forward to the Gathering with increasing enthusiasm every year.

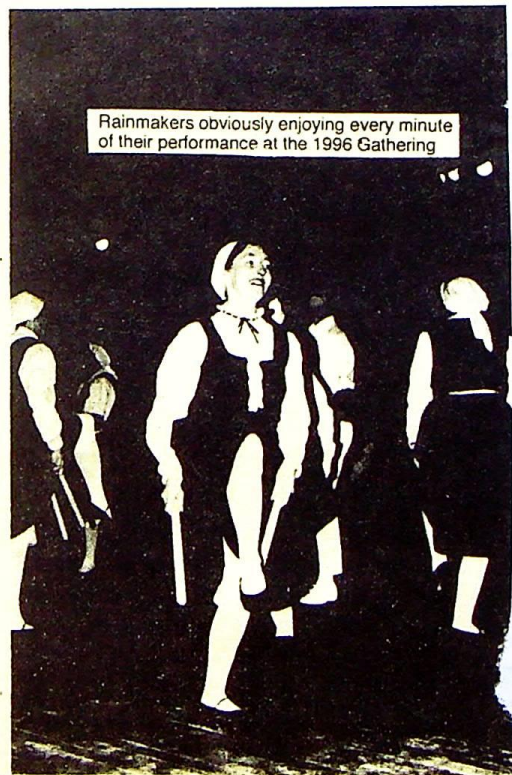
For the last 3 or 4 years I have been involved with the 'behind the scenes work', i.e. the setting up of the Town Hall for the afternoon performances. I have been a member of the Gathering Committee for the last 2 years.

I have enjoyed every aspect of the Gathering and this year was no exception. To me this was one of the best and most successful of the lot, culminating with an excellent evening dance. This was very well called by Mark Elvins with the backing of the excellent Weston Country Dance Band.

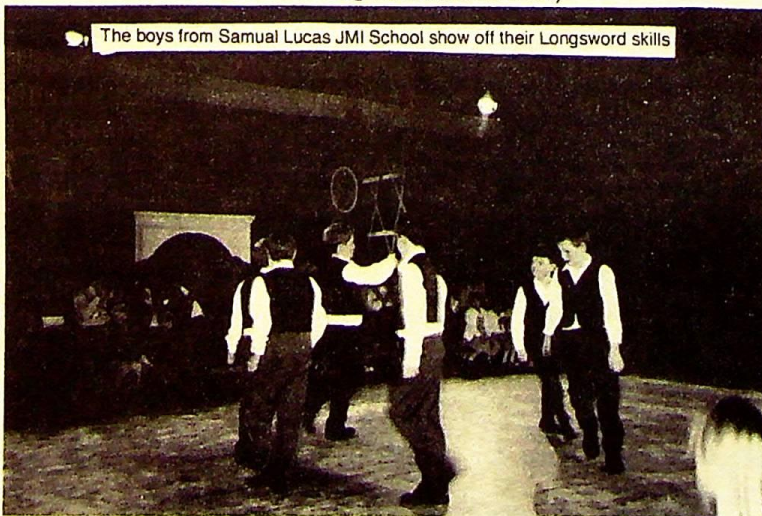
Personally I enjoyed the Clog Dancing of Tom Coonin, the Scottish dancing from Hiel and Toe and the very relaxed Street Party by Contra, which included tunes one could happily sing along with,.... but why be choosy when there were so many top class displays to entertain and enthral us all?

I am certainly looking forward to being involved again next year in the 40th Hitchin Gathering. It would be a great loss to me, North Herts in general and Hitchin in particular if this event were to die a death in the future.... so come on all you dance clubs out there keep on supporting us. I know we are all getting older but Roundabouts had two 70 year olds in their team so if they can carry on doing what they still very much enjoy so can the rest of us.

OWEN M WELCH (Staplers Gathering Committee Member)



Rainmakers obviously enjoying every minute of their performance at the 1996 Gathering



The boys from Samuel Lucas JMI School show off their Longsword skills

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We are grateful to Owen for providing the two photographs with which he illustrates this article and likewise for his provision of the Front Cover photograph for the Summer 1996 edition of the Puddingstone Magazine.

1996 Hitchin Gathering Party

8th March 1996 - M.C. - Louise Tomlinson

1st half

- ① Hora chadera (Israel)
- ② Hora din casa (Romania)
- ③ Kulsko
- ④ Chotis de la frontera (Mexico)
- ⑤ Little Mar in a Fix (Denmark)
- ⑥ Hora Miresii (Request Dance) (Romania)
- ⑦ Trip to Bavaria (Scotland)
- ⑧ Neapolitan Tarantella (Request Dance) (Italy)
- ⑨ Menussis (Request Dance) (Greece)
- ⑩ El Carrido (Mexico)
- ⑪ Sprötzer Achterum (Request Dance) (Germany)
- ⑫ La Bourrée Tournaite des Grandes Pâtisseries (France)
- ⑬ Kevi Cardas (Hungary)
- ⑭ Karamfil
- ⑮ Maizyt
- ⑯ Horozhenky Cardas
- ⑰ Jarabe Tapatis (Mexico)
- ⑱ Russian lyrical
- ⑳ Tradic Katamar (Israel)
- ㉑ Jose Mabo Mome (Request Dance) (Bulgaria)

Interval music: Magyar Képestény
Hungarian Picture - Book

Chorus of the Hungarian State Folk Ensemble
Orchestra of the Budapest Dance Ensemble

Hitchin Gathering Party 5/3/96 contd.

2nd half

- 21 Rav Brachot (Israel)
- 22 Vrapceto (Bulgaria)
- 23 Tarantella Fasola (Italy)
- 24 Girls' Dance from Kalosca (Request Dance)
- 25 Hora Tamer (Israel)
- 26 's Wals (Holland)
- 27 Alexandrovsky (Request Dance) (Russia)
- 28 Maple Leaf Rag (Canada)
- 29 Dorset Low Hard Reel (British)
- 30 Erev Shabbat (Request Dance) (Israel)
- 31 La Bourrée Pastourelle (France)
- 32 Joe de Lagane (Request Dance)
- 33 Hora Femeilor (Romania)
- 34 Gort Met Stroop (Holland)
- 35 Ma Navu (Israel)
- 36 Mari Mariko
- 37 Sulim Taccov (Israel)

PROLFIOLA



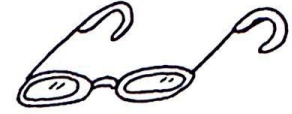
PRODUCTS

This catalogue of indispensable accessories for folk dancers arrived at Jill's house on April 1st. The postmark was Milton Keynes.

PROLFIOLA PRODUCTS

LATERAL INVERSION SPECTACLES

Be the envy of your friends! Banish unsightly craning of the neck to watch the feet next to you! As if by magic, when wearing these new LAT.IN.SPECS, the right foot of the dancer opposite you will appear to be on the right!



ARMENIAN FINGER BANDS

Never lose your grip of an Armenian dance again! These amazing new aids to finger hold are made from new *VELCRO-HUSH* - offering maximum grip but with no distracting ripping sounds when disengaged.

Sold in packs of 2 : red for Right hand
green for Left hand

Please state size required (L or S).

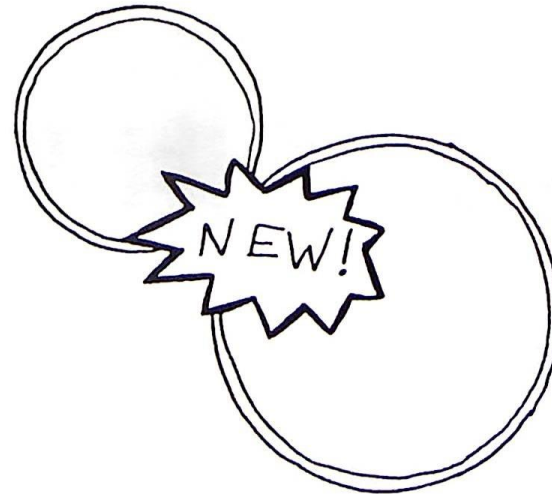
TELESCOPIC DANCING CIRCLE

Put an end to pear-shaped circle dancing misery for ever with this incredible, amazing device made from revolutionary new *POLYPLASTITHANE*.

As easily pulled as elastic but with all the rigidity of other plastics, this guide can be placed on the floor and stretched to any size circle up to 10m diameter, always coming to rest in a perfect circular shape!

Deluxe version available with programmable remote control.

Folds neatly into a cassette case for easy storage.

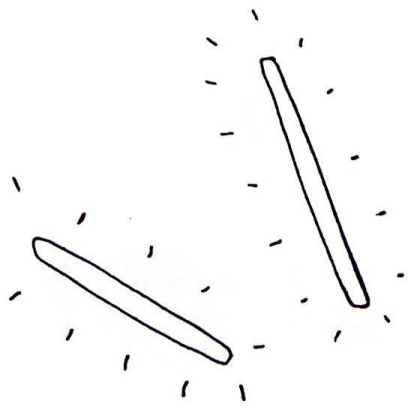


WONDER STICKS

Based on state of the art *PIEZOLUMINESCENT* technology, these sticks emit a gentle glow for up to ten seconds after they have been tapped.

Sold in pairs.

Please state size : Maori (S); Morris (L)



FULLY PORTABLE SHOULDER-HOLD ARM SUPPORT

This amazing new spring-loaded device provides the answer to shoulder-hold misery. Simply attach one under each arm with the discreet belts provided and pull cord to activate mechanism when required. You'll wonder how you ever managed without it. Sold in pairs.

Please state inside arm measurement.



FINGER NOTES AND DANCE TRAY

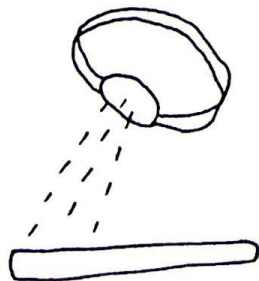
Lethargic legs? Feeble feet?

Use these specially compiled notes to practise your favourite dances with your fingers in the comfort and privacy of your own sitting room. Book contains 116 dances and comes with a non-slip, wipe-clean lap tray for your added convenience.



MAGNETIC BRACELET

Say goodbye to the drudgery of retrieving dropped sticks: this attractive bracelet, with powerful built-in ceramic magnet can attract dropped sticks from up to 1 metre and contains an incredible microchip which allows it to be activated only by your voice. Works in conjunction with WONDER STICKS.

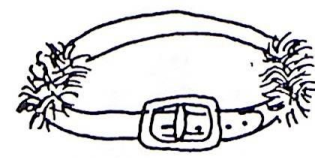


SNUGFIT COMFIGRIPS

Simply fit two of these ingenious fluffy SNUGFIT COMFIGRIPS to your belt for the ultimate comfort and convenience of your fellow dancers. Fits all sizes of belt.

Sold in pairs.

Please state colour : Fuschia (F)
Orange (O)
Ochre (OL)



TSERVULI-SWEET

These ingenious, subtly scented rollers will keep your shoes in perfect shape while gently deodorising them. Simply curl the end of your tservuli around the roller and tuck the stylish flap inside the shoe.

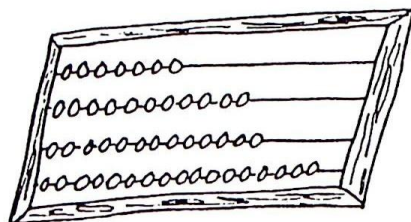
Sold in pairs.

N.B. Always remove before dancing.

GENUINE MACEDONIAN ABACUS

This intriguing hand-crafted wooden abacus has 4 rows, each corresponding to a different dance rhythm : 7, 11, 13 and 17.

Never again try working out a Macedonian dance step without one!



INSTRUCTIVE NECKLACE

Never be caught on the hop when you should be on a leap! Simply place your favourite dance instructions on the rigid stand of this discreet necklace and you can be sure that you won't be out of step. Comes with booklet featuring 20 dances.

Optional attachments include : magnifying glass
battery operated micro-fan.

Warning : NOT TO BE USED IN CONJUNCTION WITH LAT.IN.SPECS.



ELECTRONIC DANCE VOCALISER

Too shy to shriek? Weary of wailing? This neat little device slips comfortably into the palm of your hand with a loop fitted round your wrist for added safety.

Simply select the required nationality and/or region before dancing and push button to hear authentic vocals during dance.

Voices included :
A Bulgarian type shriek
B Slovak yelp
C Israeli "Oi!"

Comes in an attractively embroidered pouch to fit on belt when not in use.

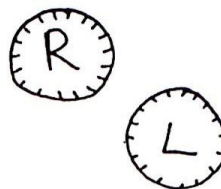
Requires 1 SIFID battery (not included)

STICK-O-RIGHT

Stick them on your shoes! on your hands!
on your shoulders!
- wherever you need to know your left from right.

These new directional identification aids will attach to most surfaces:
wood, plastic, canvas, leather and skin,
peeling off simply and easily to be tucked away in their compact carry-case for next time.

Sold as a pair.



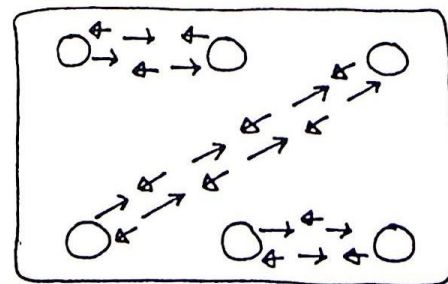
DANCE-A-MATIC

Haphazard hays?
Struggling stars?
Has your chain missed a link?

Put an end to English dance confusion with this set of electronically controlled dance mats.

Each mat is programmed to "dance you through" five English dances.

As the music plays each dancer's steps and directions will be displayed in a different colour on this amazing new non-slip high gloss mat.



For further details of products and prices please phone PROLFIOLA PRODUCTS office on 01908 502347 (ask for International Dance Accessories Dept.)

Basque Dancers at Bedford, 25-4-96

EZPELA

BASQUE TRADITIONAL FOLK DANCING

An evening of colourful and lively traditional dancing by a group of 35 dancers and musicians

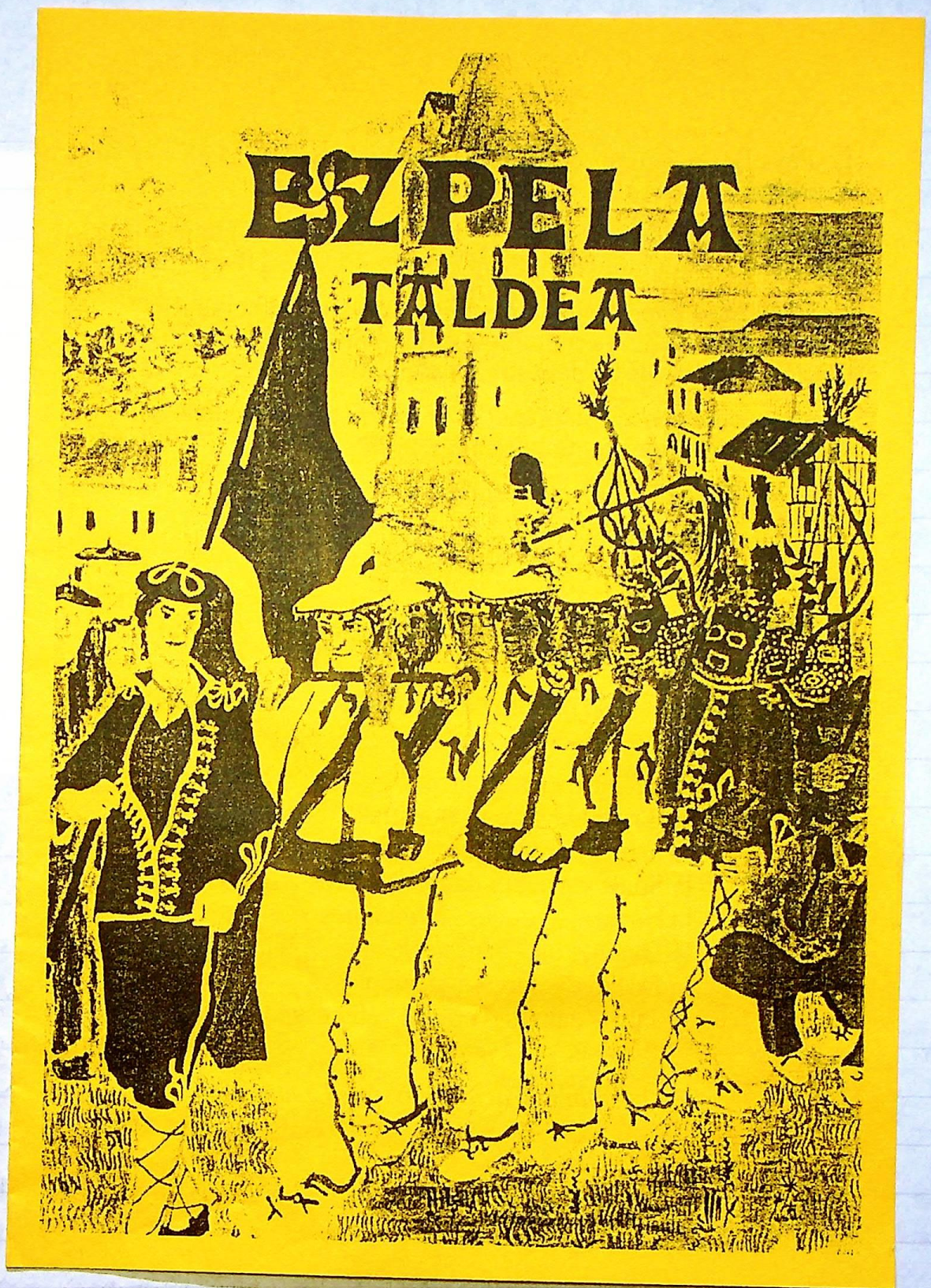
THURSDAY 25th APRIL 96

7.30 p.m.

BOWEN WEST THEATRE
LANSDOWNE ROAD BEDFORD MK40 2BZ

(Box office : 01234 219333)
01234 269519

Tickets £5. £4. or £3.



Seven members of Rainmakers (plus two family) went to Bedford on Thursday, 25th April to see a performance by "Ezpela", a team of thirty-five Basque dancers and musicians. We had been alerted, at short notice, by Janet, who had just read an article about them in her local newspaper. We tried to tell as many Rainmakers as we could, about the event. Unfortunately we

Le Pays Basque comprend 7 provinces (3 en France, 4 en Espagne).

La langue Basque, EUSKARA, sert de définition ethnique, linguistique et culturelle au Pays Basque, EUSKADI.

Le Pays Basque possède un patrimoine musical et culturel important. EZPELA est un groupe de traditions populaires Basques créé en 1969 dans le joli village d'Espelette.

Le groupe de danse comprend 30 danseurs et 6 musiciens qui jouent des instruments traditionnels:

le TXISTU, espèce de flûte

le ALBOKA, instrument à 2 cornes inégales

le TTUNTUN, sorte de tambourin

le DULTZAINA, sorte de cornemuse (sans soufflet) d'origine musulmane

Le spectacle de danse montre l'extrême diversité des styles dans les différentes provinces:

- 1 le Labourd - "Kaskarrots"
- 2 la Basse Navarre - "Bolantak" (costumes richement ornés)
- 3 la Soule - célèbre danse du verre
- 4 la Navarre - rondes envoûtantes
- 5 le Guipuzkoa - danses élégantes pleines de finesse
- 6 la Biskaye - adresse et souplesse
- 7 l'Alaba - danses d'origine religieuse

Il y aura un entracte d'environ 15 minutes

The Basque country, known as EUSKADI or EUSKAL HERRIA, consists of 7 provinces, 3 in France and 4 in Spain.

Their language, EUSKARA, serves as an ethnic, linguistic and cultural clue to the country.

The Basque country has an important musical and cultural heritage. EZPELA is a popular traditional Basque Group formed in 1969 in the attractive village of Espelette.

The Dance Group consists of 30 dancers and 6 musicians who play their traditional instruments:

TXISTU, similar to the flute

ALBOKA, same type of instrument but formed from two unequal horns

TTUNTUN, a type of drum with a stretched hide

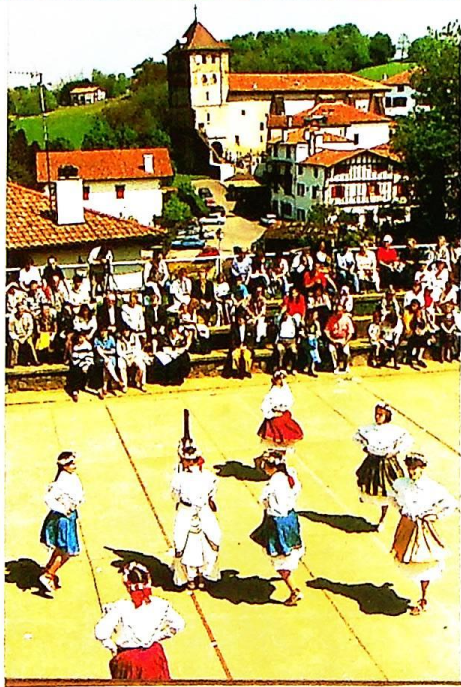
DULTZAINA, similar to the chanter of a bag-pipe

The dance routine guides you through the Basque country, the dances reflecting the individualities of each province:

- ♦ Labourd and its "Kaskarrots"
- ♦ Basse Navarre with its "Bolantak" in richly ornate costumes
- ♦ Soule and its famous glass dance
- ♦ Navarre and its enchanting rounds
- ♦ Guipuzkoa with its elegance and finesse
- ♦ Biskaye, the dancers showing deftness and suppleness
- ♦ Alaba and its dances of religious origin

There will be an Interval of approx 15 minutes

GRUPE FOLKLORIQUE EZPELA



could not contact everyone and also many Rainmakers, including Janet, were not available that evening. This was a pity as they missed an excellent display of Basque dancing.

The dancers were young. This was why they were able to give us an almost continuous performance of energetic dances. When the team came on we were surprised to see that the men wore white headscarves, like the ladies but had their red berets on top. The programme in the first half of the show included several hoop and stick dances. All were fast. In one hoop dance the ladies carried long broom sticks with a small arch of flowers over the top. Their movements were very like those of Arku Danzer. The men alone performed the stick dances - one of which was to the tune of Makkil Tiki but with some different actions. The men kept very upright all the time and

sometimes banged their sticks together ~~up~~ under the top part of the legs. One hoop dance was for men only. They carried short, plain hoops which were sometimes banged onto the hoop of the man behind each one. Several of the men's stick dances reminded us very much of Morris dances in their patterns.

The second half of the show consisted of mainly processional and ritual dances. Some of these included slow movements. We noticed several ingenious different ways in which the teams came onto and left the stage.

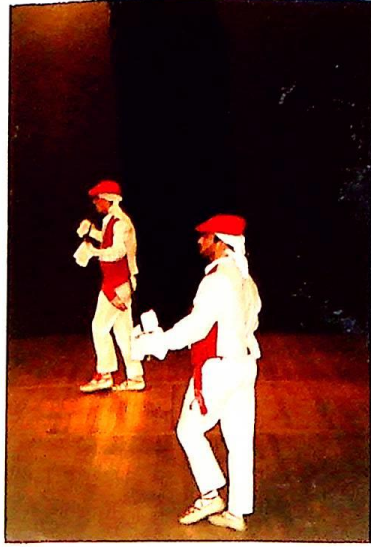
There were many changes of costume in accordance with regions from which the dances originated. The postcard on the previous page shows some of them.

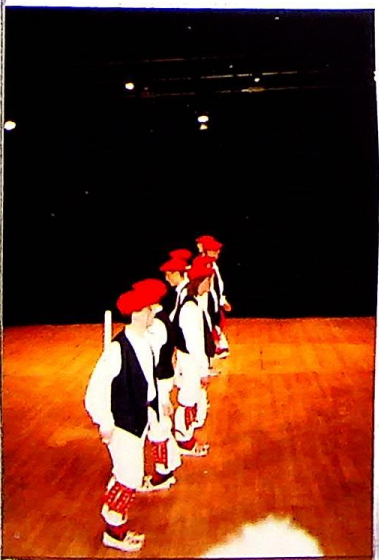
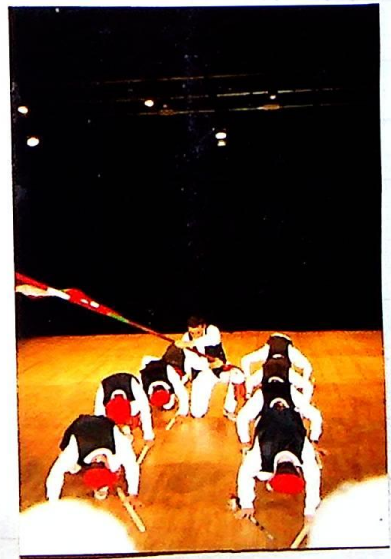
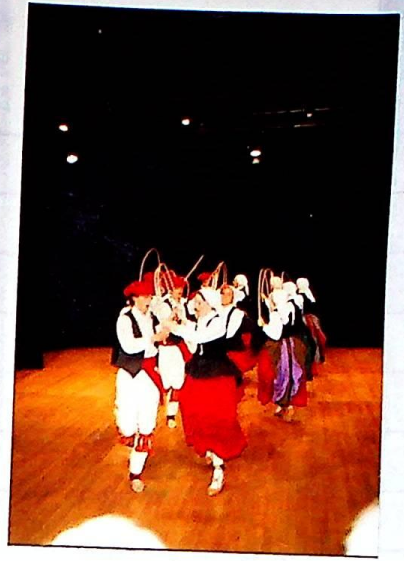
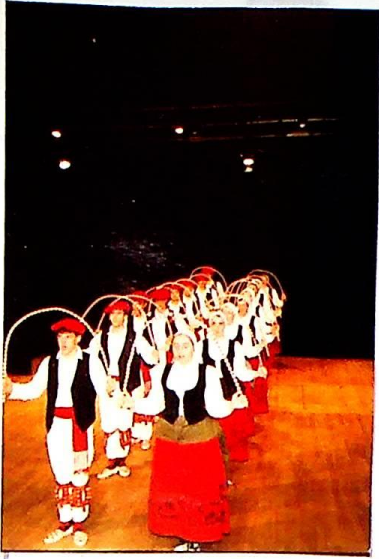
Five musicians accompanied the dancers on a flute (txistu), a double horn (alboka) a drum (tuntun), a bagpipe chanter (dulzaina) for most of the evening. A sixth musician joined the others with an accordion for the last few dances. We had to admit that the late addition to the band was a relief to the ears after over two hours of very loud music.

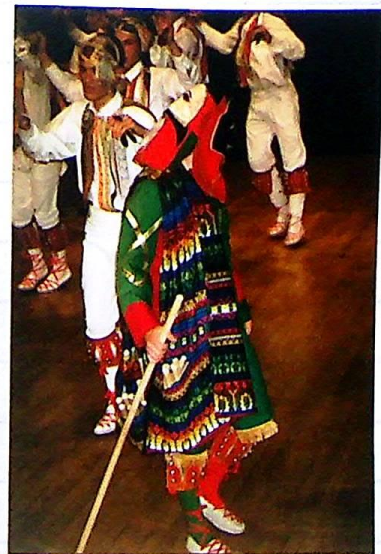
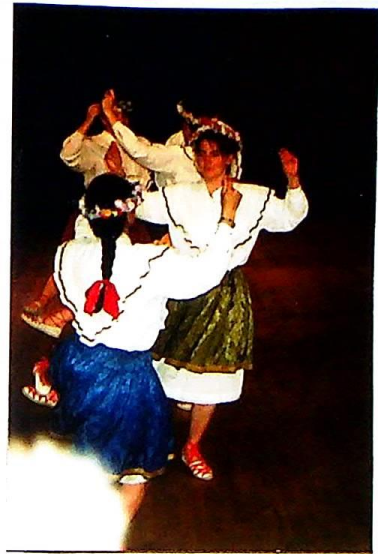
It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

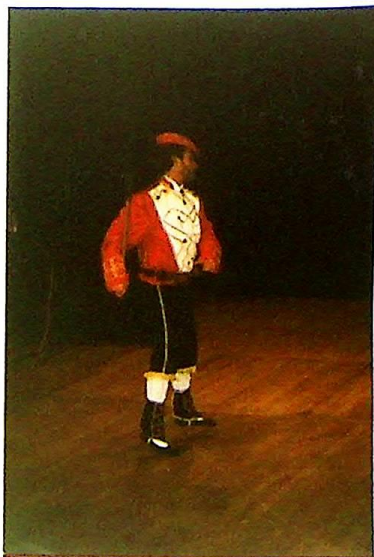
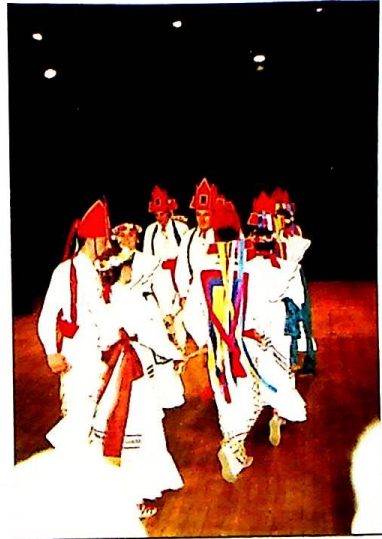
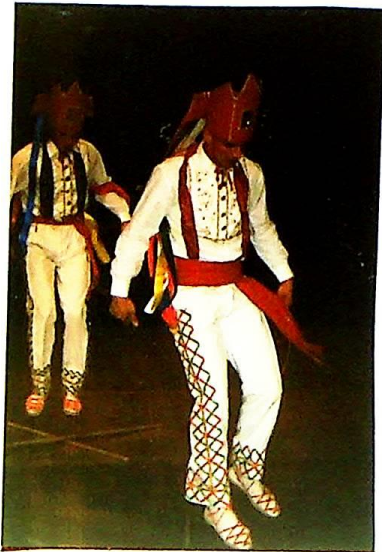
Jill took lots of photographs during the performance until she ran out of film.

She has kindly given these pictures to me for the Scrapbook. They are overleaf.









The leader of the group performs a solo dance.



RAINMAKERS FOLKDANCE GROUP



NEWSLETTER No. 13

May 1996

Rainmakers is a club that exists to enjoy folkdancing from all over the world.

We meet most Fridays in St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire, at 20.00 hrs.

For further information contact: *Mark* (Chairman) 01462 454210
or *Curle* (Sec.) 01462 490071

FUTURE EVENTS

Displays

- | | |
|--|---|
| Sat. 18th May 13.00-13.30
& 14.30-15.00 | Baldock Victorian Street Fair
Baldock High Street |
| Sat. 29th June 14.00-15.30 | Victoria Embankment Gardens |
| Sat. 13th July 15.15-15.45 | Flamstead Outreach Group garden party
"Cheverells House", Markyate, Herts. |

Rehearsals (Victoria Embankment Gardens)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|
| Sun. 9th June
14.00-1630 | Offley Village Hall |
| Tues. 25th June
20.00-22.00 | Radwell Village Hall |

Workshop

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Fri. 19th July 20.00-22.00 | French Revision at St. Michaels Hall, Letchworth
Tutors: Simon and Joan Guest |
|----------------------------|--|

Dances

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Sun. 1st Dec. 19.00-22.00 | SIFD dance hosted by the Rainmakers |
| Sat. 26th Oct. 19.30-23.00 | The Anniversary Dance at Ickleford Village Hall |


Daily Telegraph
Out of step 3/5/96

SIR — The lunatics of Oxford Council seem to be running the asylum.

The local Morris dancers have to satisfy the provisions of BS 5750/TS09000, which ensures that they are providing services of a "sufficiently high standard", before they can be put on the official list of suppliers of services to perform at council functions.

W. B. LANGSTON
Welwyn, Herts

Baldock Festival, Victorian Street Fair,
Saturday, 18th May 1996.




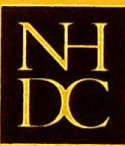
THIRTEENTH

Baldock Festival

May 4 - 19
1996

Programme
of Events

Sponsored by
North Hertfordshire
District Council



The weather on the morning of Saturday, May 18th was very cold and windy with occasional heavy showers. This was very unfortunate for the organisers

WEEK ONE 4-11 MAY

Sat. 4th.	Sun. 5th	Mon. 6th.	Tues. 7th.	Wed. 8th.	Thurs. 9th.	Fri. 10th.	Sat. 11th.
Carnival	Garden Party	Car Treasure Hunt	Spelling Bee	Teddy Bear's Picnic	Jack O'Legs	Tea Dance	Rumplestiltskin Puppet Show
Fete	Circular Walk	Circular Walk	Planting Demonstration	Conversazione	Witches of Hertfordshire	Family Beetle Drive	Golf Tournament
Car Boot Sale						Festival Quiz	Classical Music Concert
Square Dance						Aromatherapy	Jazz Evening

WEEK 2 12-19 MAY

Sun. 12th.	Mon. 13th.	Tues. 14th.	Wed. 15th.	Thurs. 16th.	Fri. 17th.	Sat. 18th.	Sun. 19th.
Superteams Challenge	Pop Quiz	Women in the 1880's	Horticultural Society Talk	Going to the Flicks	Fashion Show	Victorian Street Fair	Family Cycle Ride
Farm Open Day	Planting Demonstration	Planting Demonstration		Natural History of North Hertford	Once Upon A Time...	Flower Festival	Flower Festival
Antiques Fair						Once Upon A Time...	Five-A-Side Football
Monty Cello & Friends							Service of Celebration
Come Into My Parlour							

All tickets and entry forms are available from Baldock Travel Agency, 24A High Street, Baldock, (tel: 01462 892182). Personal, postal and telephone bookings taken. You can also call in at the Community Centre, Simpson Drive, Baldock, for entry forms and tickets (tel: 01462 894109) and H Penfold & Son, 38 - 40 Whitehorse Street, Baldock, for entry forms.



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Chairman's Message

I once more welcome the opportunity to write the introduction to the 1996 programme of the Thirteenth Baldock Festival.

This year, thanks to our major sponsors, the North Herts District Council, the events are very varied, ranging from sports to a classical music evening, historical talk to a square dance. Somewhere within the programme I'm sure there is an event that will inspire you to meet old acquaintances or make new friends who have similar interests.

Last year's Festival was very well supported, which has encouraged the committee to put further efforts into this year's programme, for which I thank them all, as a committee and as

individuals. If you, the reader, feel inclined to join us in whichever way, please contact me or any of the committee members, as there is always a welcome for a new face or new ideas, so that the Festival will always be what the people of Baldock want it to be.

The month of May in Baldock would not be the same without the Festival and it is the ideal way to get to know the town and its people. Come and join in the fun this year - Baldock awaits you!

Tony Jones
Chairman

PUBLIC HEALTH NOTICE

If you only manage to take part in a 1/4 of this fortnight's events, you're going to need a good rest.

Luckily we are your local stockists of **Rest Assured & Sleepzee** beds, so you won't have far to stagger!

We'll even take your old bed away for free.

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Telephone: Baldock 892182



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- ◆ Crèche
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Tel: 01462 896421

Baldock Festival

Tickets will be on sale at Baldock Travel Agency, 24a High Street, Baldock (tel: 01462 892182) from April 25 onwards - personal, postal and telephone bookings taken. Tickets are also available from Baldock Community Centre (tel: 01462 894109).

All entry forms are available from Baldock Travel Agency, Baldock Community Centre and H Penfold & Son, 38 - 40 Whitehorse Street, Baldock from 25 April onwards.

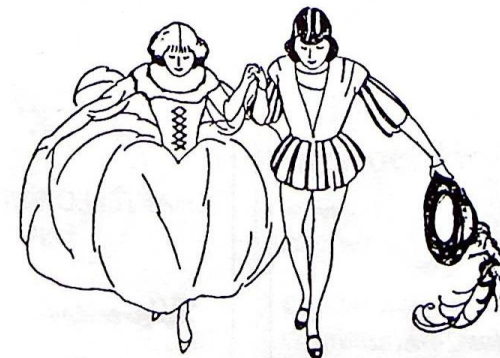
During the Festival Fortnight the Baldock Guild of Bellringers will ring a peal dedicated to the Festival.

CHILDREN'S LIBRARY COMPETITION

Age 6 and under: Colouring Competition. Collect a picture to colour from the Library. Use any medium you like - pencils, paints or crayons.

Age 7 - 11: Do a picture in any medium of a character or scene from a legend or fairy tale.

Further details available from the Library. Closing date: Return all entries to the Library by Wednesday 15 May.



FAMILY TREASURE HUNT

Forms available from usual outlets from Saturday 4 May. This is a treasure hunt for all the family. You have over a week to complete it and it will take you around the main streets of the town. Ideal for an evening walk with a difference! All forms must be returned by Wednesday 15 May. Price 20p per form. Prize, which will be presented at the Street Fair, for first winning entry drawn out of the hat.

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HERTFORDSHIRE SG12 9BA

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Week 1 May 4 - 11

SATURDAY 4 MAY - 11 MAY

ART EXHIBITION Quenby's Show-rooms. An exhibition of paintings by members of Baldock Art Group. (Organised by Baldock Art Group).

SATURDAY 4 MAY

CARNIVAL Assemble at 11.45am for judging at 12.30pm. Procession moves off at 1.00pm. Any late arrivals will be allowed to take part in carnival procession but cannot be included in judging as this would delay the start. Probable assembly point: Clothall Common. Phone 01462 893730 for details.

FETE Hartsfield School 2.00pm Barbecue, stalls, laser game, bouncy castle and usual attractions. Watch the Carnival procession, then visit the fete and car boot sale at Hartsfield School.



CAR BOOT SALE 12.00noon - 5.00pm - Hartsfield School. £5.00 per pitch. Prior bookings only - phone 892225 to reserve a pitch. There will also be some side shows and stalls, so why not spend some time here after the Carnival.

SQUARE DANCE Knights Templar School, Park Street. 7.30 for 8.00pm start Tickets £6.00 (includes supper, vegetarian meal available on request when buying ticket.). Admission by ticket only from Baldock Travel or phone 01462 895414 any time. (Organised by Baldock Lions Club).



SUNDAY 5 MAY

GARDEN PARTY 2.30pm, 27 Pembroke Road. Tea, cakes and croquet on the lawn. (In aid of Baldock minibus fund) Entrance 50p.

MONDAY 6 MAY

CAR TREASURE HUNT Starting from Community Centre Car Park at 10.00am. £1.00 per car. Finish time 12 noon - 12.30pm at a local pub where food will be on sale.

CIRCULAR WALK via Radwell. Lots of ducks etc to see! Starting from Baldock Community Centre 10.30am ending at The Engine (opp Baldock BR Station) where food will be on sale. Walk suitable for small children but not buggies. Waterproof footwear advised. No charge for walk. (Organised by the Festival Committee)

SIMKINS

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Hertfordshire SG7 6BD

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also at

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Telephone: Sandy (01767) 692244

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TUESDAY 7 MAY

SPELLING BEE 7.30pm, Engine
Public House, Station Road. Cash
prize for winners. All proceeds to
Baldock mini-bus fund. Entrance fee
£1.50 per person. Maximum of 4
persons per team. Further details
contact Roger on 01462 894289.
Forms available by phoning the above
number or from usual outlets.



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evening.* Entry fee: £2.50 includes
compost and the care of your basket
until it is ready to go outside. All
proceeds will go towards Baldock
Ladies Circle Charity Fund. Entry by
pre-booking only. Please ring 01462
896302 or call at the Farm Shop/Plant
Centre.



WEDNESDAY 8 MAY

TEDDY BEAR'S PICNIC 3.45-5.15pm.
Weston Way Nursery School, Weston
Way, for children aged 7 years and
under who must be accompanied by
an adult. Entertainment and orange
squash provided. Bring your own
picnic and teddy too. Admission
children 75p, adults free. (Organised
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Street, 8.00pm. Tickets £2.50 inclu-
ding light refreshments. Early booking
advised.

THURSDAY 9 MAY

JACK O'LEGS Baldock Library. Ste-
venage Artscape will be performing
the story of Jack O'Legs and two other
legends to invited groups from the
primary schools.




WITCHES OF HERTFORDSHIRE

8.00pm Baldock Community Centre,
Simpson Drive. A talk by Tom Doig for
Baldock Local History Society. Open
to all. Members £1.00p. Non-
members: £1.50. Raffle and coffee in
interval.

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FRIDAY 10 MAY

TEA DANCE 2.00pm - 4.00pm Bal-
dock Community Centre, Simpson
Drive. £1.25.

FAMILY BEETLE DRIVE 6.30pm -
8.30pm St Mary's Infant School, St
Mary's Way, organised by St Mary's
Schools PTA.

FESTIVAL QUIZ 7.00pm for 7.30pm
start prompt. Baldock Community
Centre. A pencil and paper General
Knowledge quiz. Teams of 4 compete
for trophy. Entrance fee: £10.00 per
team. Entry by form only obtainable
from Baldock Travel Agency, Baldock
Community Centre and Penfolds,
Whitehorse Street. Bar and waitress
service available. Teams limited, so
early application advised.

AROMATHERAPY 7.30pm Small
Hall, Baldock Community Centre,
Simpson Drive. Talk and demon-
stration by Georgina Nunn £2.00.

SATURDAY 11 MAY

RUMPLESTILTSKIN PUPPET SHOW
for 4 - 10 year olds. 2.30 - 3.20pm in
Baldock Library. Tickets 50p from the
Library.

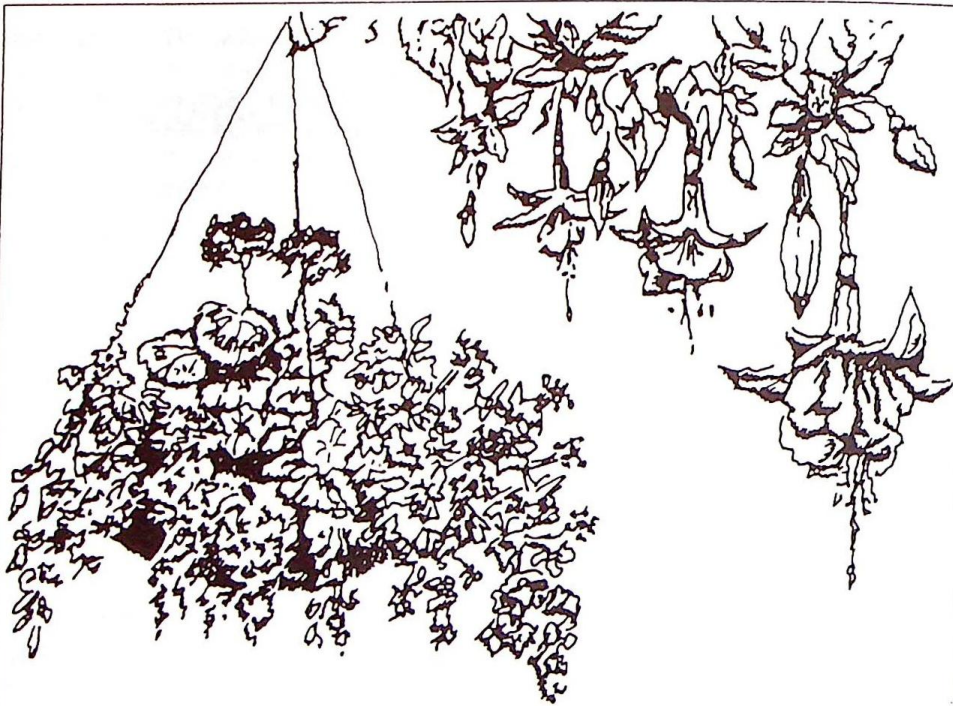
GOLF TOURNAMENT First tee
8.00am Mount Pleasant Golf Course,
Lower Stondon. Singles comp. Full
handicap allowance. £18.00 approx.
Light refreshments. Phone 01462
893009 to enter and for further details.



**A CONCERT OF LIGHT CLASSICAL
MUSIC** Doors open 7.00pm for 7.30
start. Baldock Community Centre. The
Lonark Oboe Trio will present an
evening of light classical music with a
romantic flavour including pieces by
Bach, Mozart, Debussy and Brittain.
Wine and fruit juice will be served
during the interval. Tickets £5.00.

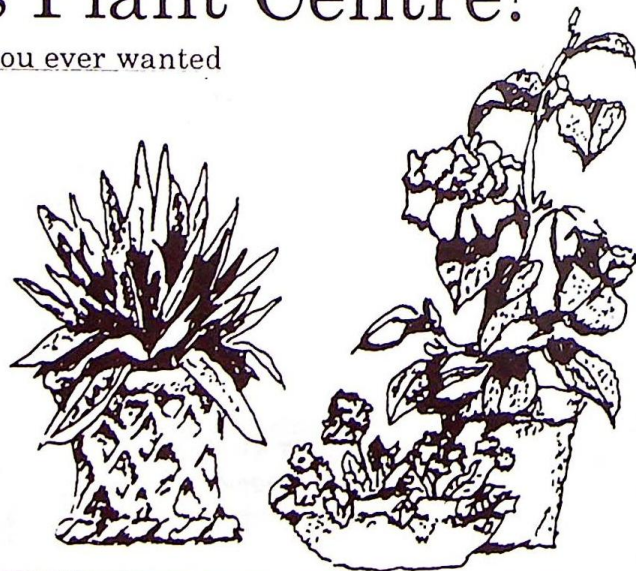
JAZZ EVENING Knights Templar
School, Park Street. Further details
and tickets from school only. Tel:
01462 893083.





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Baldock Festival Wordsearch

B	D	C	W	A	L	K	T	O	W	E	S	T	O	N	H	F	C
R	I	A	F	T	E	E	R	T	S	E	E	R	L	E	C	A	I
I	X	D	D	P	Y	P	C	Y	M	R	N	L	D	T	R	F	N
R	T	A	S	B	P	B	U	F	A	E	O	L	T	N	I	R	C
B	W	R	O	A	M	O	S	I	E	I	I	A	I	U	C	T	I
A	I	T	N	L	G	O	H	R	T	M	Z	V	M	H	K	H	P
R	N	S	G	D	Y	K	I	E	R	U	A	I	E	E	E	E	S
T	E	C	S	O	T	O	O	W	E	L	S	T	M	R	T	C	R
E	T	O	O	C	R	F	N	O	P	T	R	S	U	U	M	O	A
X	A	M	F	K	A	R	C	R	U	E	E	E	S	S	A	M	E
H	S	P	P	H	P	E	O	K	S	N	V	F	I	A	T	M	B
I	T	E	R	O	R	C	N	D	P	O	N	R	C	E	C	I	Y
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I	N	I	I	S	D	R	E	S	P	B	C	W	A	T	R	T	D
T	G	T	S	E	R	D	R	P	Q	I	G	O	L	F	S	E	E
I	B	I	E	S	U	S	T	L	U	N	O	L	L	I	C	E	T
O	O	O	A	R	M	D	X	A	I	G	W	F	H	I	Z	I	L
N	N	N	V	Q	P	C	T	Y	Z	O	M	W	V	W	T	I	W

Find the following 25 words and phrases associated with the Baldock Festival over the last four years which are hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally and backwards.

Carnival Procession
The Committee
Darts Competition
Wine Tasting
Cushion Concert
Superteams
Art Exhibition
Bingo
Treasure Hunt

Walk to Weston
Teddy Bears Picnic
Son et Lumiere
Flower Festival
Street Fair
Book of Records
Whist
Baldock Houses

Old Time Music Hall
Cricket Match
Firework Display
Murder Party
Songs of Praise
Pop Quiz
Conversazione
Golf

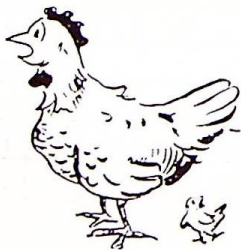
A prize of £10 will be awarded to the first correct solution identifying the positions of all the words that is taken out of the hat on Street Fair Day. All entries to be returned for marking to Mr C G Vincent, 219 Weston Way,

Week 2 May 12 - 19

SUNDAY 12 MAY

SUPER TEAMS CHALLENGE

9.30am Knights Templar School and field. Teams of 4 compete for this Baldock Festival sporting challenge. There are eight compulsory disciplines: 100 metre hurdles, long jump, 60 metre sack race, dips, squats, football slalom, basketball lay-ups, 1200 metre race. This is a fun event and spectators are welcome. £10.00 per team. Entry forms from Tony Jones, tel: 01462 490220.



FARM OPEN DAY 10.00am - 4.00pm
Valley Transition Course, Brandles School, Weston Way. A rural day out. Sheep shearing, Farm animals, Morris Dancers, Barbecue, Refreshment tent. Admission £1.00. conc. 50p.

ANTIQUES FAIR 10.00am - 4.00pm
Baldock Community Centre, Simpson Drive. Small admission fee.

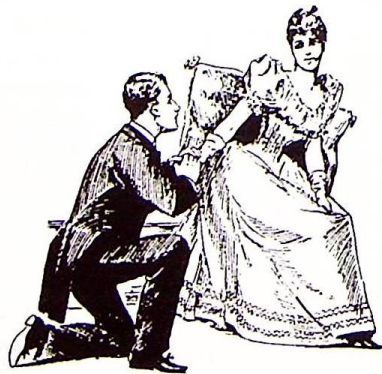
MONTY CELLO AND FRIENDS

3.15pm. Radwell Village Hall. Take cushion along to sit on. Monty Cello and Friends present a Victorian children's concert. A day in the life of a Victorian child features encounters

with the blacksmith, muffin seller, gypsies and other street sellers. The story is told using music of the time, both classical and 'popular'. Suitable for children aged 5 - 12. Tickets: £3.50 per person (adult or child) or £6.50 for two. Phone 01462 730490 to book.

COME INTO MY PARLOUR

A Victorian Entertainment. Doors open 7.30pm for 7.45pm start. Baldock Community Centre. You are cordially invited to spend an evening with a Victorian family, their guests and servants for an evening of diversion and amusement. Readings, songs and ...a melodrama! A nurse equipped with 'kerchiefs and sal volatile will be on hand to assist anyone overcome with emotion during the evening. Tickets £2.50 include a glass of wine or fruit juice and nibbles. Prior booking advised. (Organised by the Festival Committee and performed by the Baldock Festival Players.)



MONDAY 13 MAY

POP QUIZ 7.30 for 8.00pm Baldock Snooker Club. Entry fee: £6.00 per team. Forms from usual outlets.



TUESDAY 14 MAY

WOMEN IN THE 1800s. A talk by Tom Doig organised by St Mary's Women's Fellowship. 8.15pm, Scout HQ, Park Drive. £1.00 includes coffee/tea and biscuits. All welcome.

HANGING BASKET AND PATIO CONTAINER DEMONSTRATION

EVENING hosted by Baldock Ladies Circle at Tapps Plant Centre. Planting demonstrations plus lots of ideas and tips. Everything required for a show-winning basket can be supplied, or bring your own basket or container along to plant up, with hundreds of plants to choose from. *Discount is offered on all plants sold on the evening.* Entry fee: £2.50 includes compost and the care of your basket until it is ready to go outside. All proceeds will go towards Baldock Ladies Circle Charity Fund. Entry by pre-booking only. Please ring 01462 896302 or call at the Farm Shop/Plant Centre.



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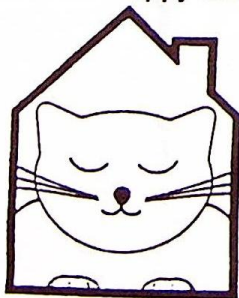
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WEDNESDAY 15 MAY**BALDOCK HORTICULTURAL
SOCIETY** Talk and slides on Capel
Manor by Mr Tom Cole, Lecturer in
Horticulture, Capel Manor. 8.00pm. St
John's School, Limekiln Lane.
Admission £2.00 non-members £1.50
members.**THURSDAY 16 MAY****GOING TO THE FLICKS** 10.30am
Baldock Library. Reminiscences of
films musicals and shows from the
'30s to the '50s. Admission by ticket
only, which are available FREE from
the Library.**NATURAL HISTORY OF NORTH
HERTFORDSHIRE** Talk by Brian
Sawford. 8.00pm Baldock Community
Centre. Talk arranged by the Baldock
Society. Raffle and coffee in interval.
Admission price £1.50.**FRIDAY 17 MAY****FASHION SHOW** 7.30pm Baldock
Community Centre, Simpson Drive.
Arranged by *Feathers Fashions*.
Clothes may be purchased at end of
the show. Tickets from usual outlets:
£2.00.**FRI/SATURDAY 17/18 MAY****ONCE UPON A TIME...** A musical
performed by Baldock Theatre Group
7.45pm at Knights Templar School.
Tickets £5.00 (£4.00 conc) include
Ploughman's Supper. Licensed Bar.**SATURDAY 18 MAY****VICTORIAN STREET FAIR**10.00am - 4.00pm Baldock Market
Place. 50 stalls and tables, crafts and
local charity stalls*Free Arena Entertainment:*

11.00am Tricky Micky

11.30 Mr Coffee

12.00 - 1.00 Fizzie Lizzie

1.00pm Tricky Micky

1.30 North Herts Youth Orch.

2.30 Mr Coffee

3.00 - 4.00 Fizzie Lizzie

Also appearing will be Geoff Hales
Travelling Theatre with *The Beautiful
Pea-Green Boat Show* performing
poetry for children, while suitably
dressed in a Victorian swimming
costume! The Rainmakers Dance
Group 1.00pm, 2.30pm, 3.30pm; The
Roundabouts will also be dancing at
some time during the day. Bob Minney**REPSOL****WHITE HORSE
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and his barrel organs (*Fizzie Lizzie appears by arrangement with Calm Feelings.*)

And there's more: A Victorian Peep Show. Children's fairground rides. Victorian street sellers, Also, in the Community Centre: Local History Display; Demonstrations of spinning using rabbit wool; 40 Years of Amateur Radio - come along and see how it works; Senior Sewing Club; Hertfordshire Countryside Management.

Let's all get dressed up for the day - long skirts and boaters for the ladies and flat 'ats and waistcoats for the men. Come and join in the fun and meet all your friends.

FLOWER FESTIVAL Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine, Limekiln Lane. Call in and see the magnificent floral arrangements made by members of Baldock Floral Society. Theme: The Saints. Saturday 18 May 10.00am Blessing of flowers, then displays can be viewed until 4.30pm. Sunday 19 May 12.00noon - 4.30pm, then during the Service of Celebration.

ONCE UPON A TIME... A musical performed by Baldock Theatre Group 7.45pm at Knights Templar School. Tickets £5.00 (£4.00 conc) include Ploughman's Supper. Licensed Bar.



SUNDAY 19 MAY

FAMILY CYCLE RIDE starting from Tesco rear car park through villages and country lanes - no main roads. Guided or go at own pace. Approx 18 kilometres. Organised by Hertfordshire Management Service in collaboration with Frost Cycles. No charge.



FLOWER FESTIVAL (See Saturday for details)

FIVE-A-SIDE FOOTBALL 10.00am St Mary's Junior School, St Mary's Way, £10.00 per team. **Under 10s, 12s and 14s** (at start of '95/'96 season). **All teams must have an adult manager. The tournament is played on outdoor pitches, therefore, footwear as preferred.** Forms available from usual outlets. Spectators and supporters welcome. (Tel 490220 for further details.)

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION 6.30pm Church of the Holy Trinity and St Augustine. Refreshments in Church Hall after the service.

All details correct at time of going to press.

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Telephone: Baldock 893393



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Restaurant: Tuesday-Saturday 11.45am-1.45pm
4.45pm-8.45pm

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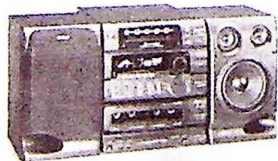
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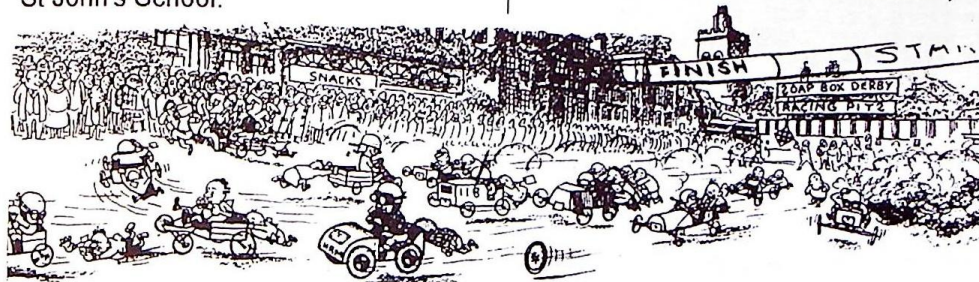
AND AFTER THE FESTIVAL...

WEDNESDAY 22 MAY

AN EVENING OF WESTERN MUSIC
(eg Vivaldi, Elgar) **AND INDIAN**
MUSIC AND DANCE given by The
Mathison Music School of Calcutta.
8.00pm, Church of the Holy Trinity,
London Road. Tickets £4.00 and £2.50
(conc) available from usual outlets and
St John's School.

SUNDAY 14 JULY

SOAP BOX DERBY to be run in the
High Street. Entry forms, including
rules and safety regulations, are
available from Baldock Travel Agency
H Penfold & Son and Baldock
Community Centre. (Contact Margaret
on 01462 893478 for further details.)



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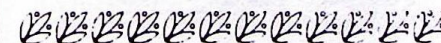
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Acknowledgements

Grateful thanks are due to the following people and organisations for their help and support in arranging this festival:

Ashleys, Baldock Community Association, Baldock Floral Society, Baldock Horticultural Society, Baldock Library, Baldock Lions, Baldock Local History Society, Baldock Mail, Baldock Snooker Club, Baldock Society, Baldock Theatre Group, Baldock Travel Agency, Campion Design, Church of the Holy Trinity, Beth and Paul Culpin, Mick Dilley, Roy Duncan, Bob Eversden, Peter Flack, Friends of Baldock Senior Citizens, Harlequin Costume Hire, Hartsfield JMI School, Hertfordshire Countryside Management, Don Kenny, Knights Temple School, Angie Lockyer, Letchworth and Baldock Scouts, Ralph and Bruce Moss, North Herts District Council, North Herts Police, H Penfold & Son, Quenby's, The Red Cross, The Round Table, St John's Community Association, St Mary's Junior School, Scuzzy, Graham Tapp, Ray Thorn, John Ward, Weston Way Nursery School, and everybody who has helped in any way, particularly those who help with putting up stalls on Street Fair Day and taking them down again!

The Festival Committee would also like to thank all the advertisers - without their support this programme would not have been possible

Baldock Festival '96 was arranged by the Baldock Festival Committee: Tony Jones (Chairman), Liz Eversden (Secretary), Chris and Sue Vincent (Treasurers), Sue Cass, Paula Jones, Marilyn Kirkland, Maureen & Nick Maddren, Fred & Maggie Miller, Jean Morris, Chris Penfold, Sue Rusted, Linda Slaney, Cathy & Richard Thompson.



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19 Hitchin St., Baldock

and participants in the Baldock Victorian Street Fair as they could not expect as many members of the public as they hoped for to turn out and enjoy the events. Local organisations and clubs had worked hard to dress themselves up in Victorian-style clothes and prepare laden stalls. I was there early and saw all this going on.

True to their promise, eleven members of the Rainmakers group arrived to give a display of International Folk Dancing. Each ^{couple} wore the costume of a different country. Even though they were wearing as many warm garments as possible underneath their folk costumes I could see them shivering. However, the rain held off whilst they danced and more and more people stopped to watch. I particularly felt for Louise wearing a pretty white, sleeveless Mexican dress.

The display went very well and each item was applauded. The high spot of the 1.00 to 1.30 programme was the Mexican Hat Dance performed by Graham and Louise (who had put on a wide red skirt over her Mexican dress). The onlookers clapped and cheered. More cheers and claps were accorded to Graham and his team of dancers at the end of the display.

The Rainmakers retreated to the warmth of a nearby pub for rest and refreshment before giving another show from 2.30 to 3.00 p.m., which I did not see as I went home.

Those taking part were:→ Graham, Curle, Louise, Mark Patti, Clive, Richard, Moya, Julie, Terry, Maria, Sue, Adrian.

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group

Display

Baldock Fair 18th May 1996

Couples

1	Mark	Pattii
2	Adrian	Sue
3	Richard	Moya or Maria
4	Clive	Julie
5	Terry	Curle
6	Graham	Louise

1st Spot (1.00 to 1.30pm)

Side A

004	Hora Hadera	All Individuals
058	Bouree Pastourelle	All Couples (Richard & Maria)
114	Horlepip	Graham & Louise Adrian & Sue Clive & Julie Mark & Pattii
150	Maizeit	All Couples (Richard & Moya)
199	Picking up Sticks	Terry & Curle Richard & Pattii Graham & Moya
242	Mexican Hat Dance	Graham & Louise
287	Jesusita En Chihuahua	All couples (Richard & Maria)

2nd Spot (2.30 to 3.00pm)

Side B

006	Tzardik Katamar	All Individual
050	Hashual	All Individual
111	Bouree de la Chapelotte	Sue Graham Louise Moya Terry Maria Julie Mark Pattii
144	Ox Dance	Adrian & Clive
204	Hota Antigua	All Couples (Richard & Moya) (Terry & Maria)
233	Vleegerd	Richard & Patti Clive & Julie Moya & Maria Graham & Louise
311	Erey Bah	All Individuals
353	Shir Ha' Caituna (Wedding Song)	All Individuals



Rainmakers dancing at Baldock Street Fair.
18th May 1996.

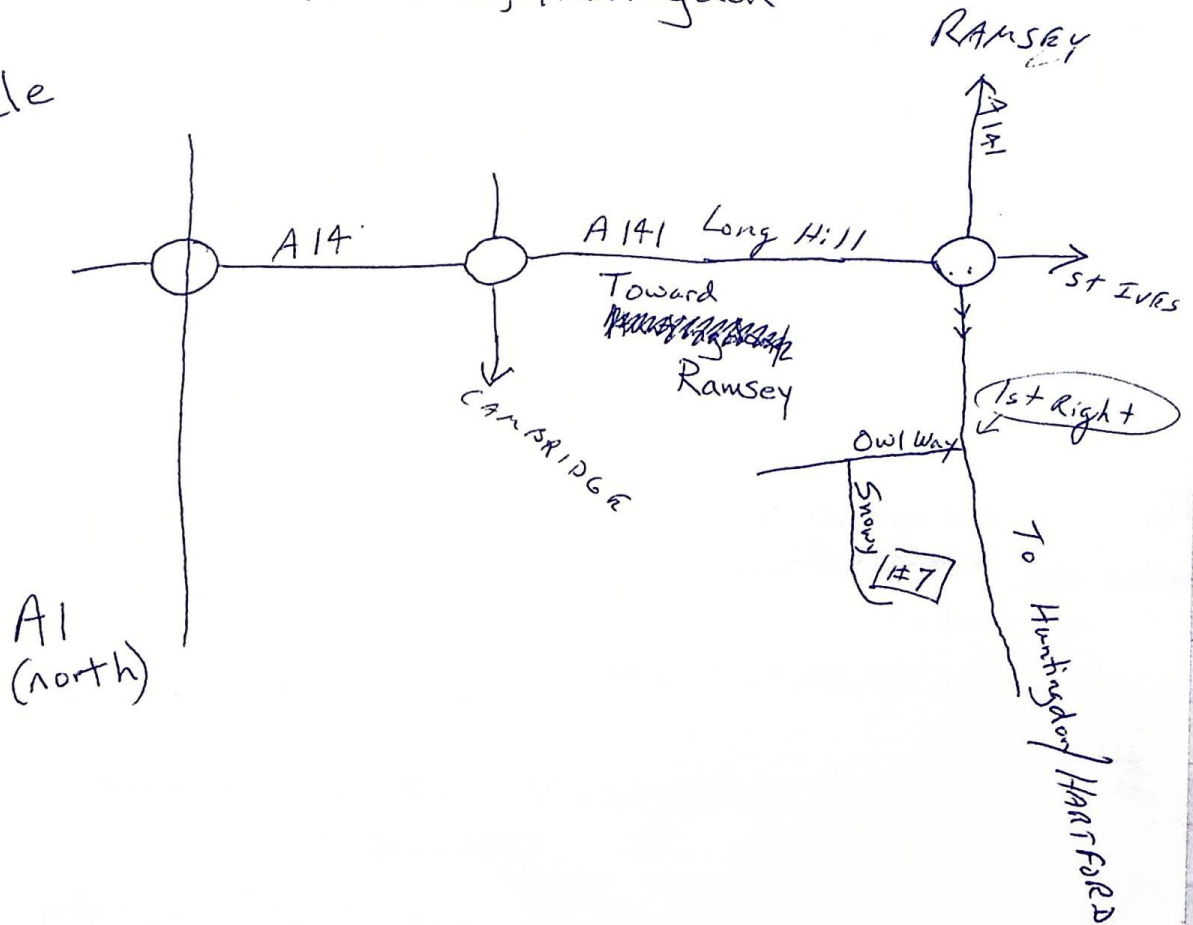
Farewell to American friends.

Sheila + John Robinson
at home

1-5 Sat. June 8 1986

7 Snowy Way
Hartford, Huntingdon

map.
not to
scale



telephone 0480 434-533

Sheila and John will shortly be returning to the U.S.A. They have been in England

for three years and coming to Rainmakers for two of them. (after they discovered us they felt it worthwhile to travel from near Huntingdon almost every Friday evening.)

On June 8th they held a Farewell Party at their home which several Rainmakers were able to attend.

At the club we said goodbye to them with a special cake and a gift of a carved breadboard made by Martin Lansbury. We shall miss their company as they are not only very nice people but also expert dancers. They love their dancing and enjoyed learning some of the European dances that we do and leave behind a Hungarian Czardas, Malo Mome and several simpler Balkan dances that they taught us. Whilst they were at the Rainmakers they were able to take part in the C.C.P.R.'s celebration "Spotlight on Dance" at the Royal Albert Hall last September.

Some Rainmakers and families at John & Sheila's Party.

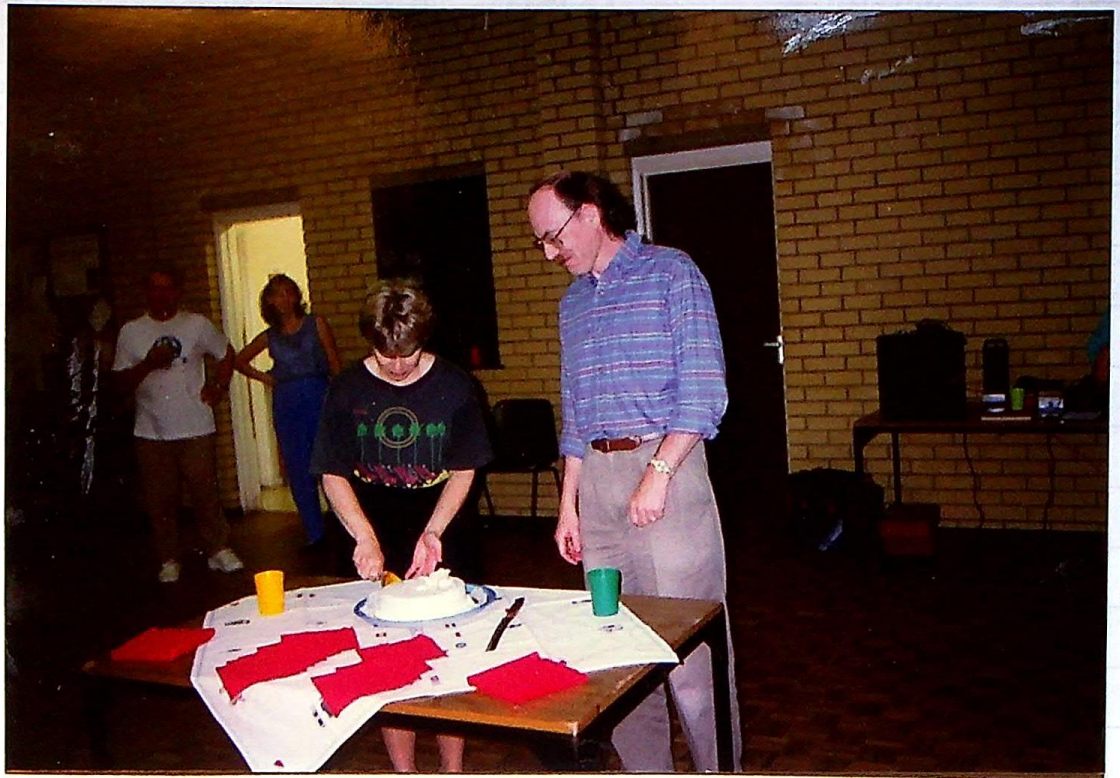


June 8th 1996.



Photographs from Jane.





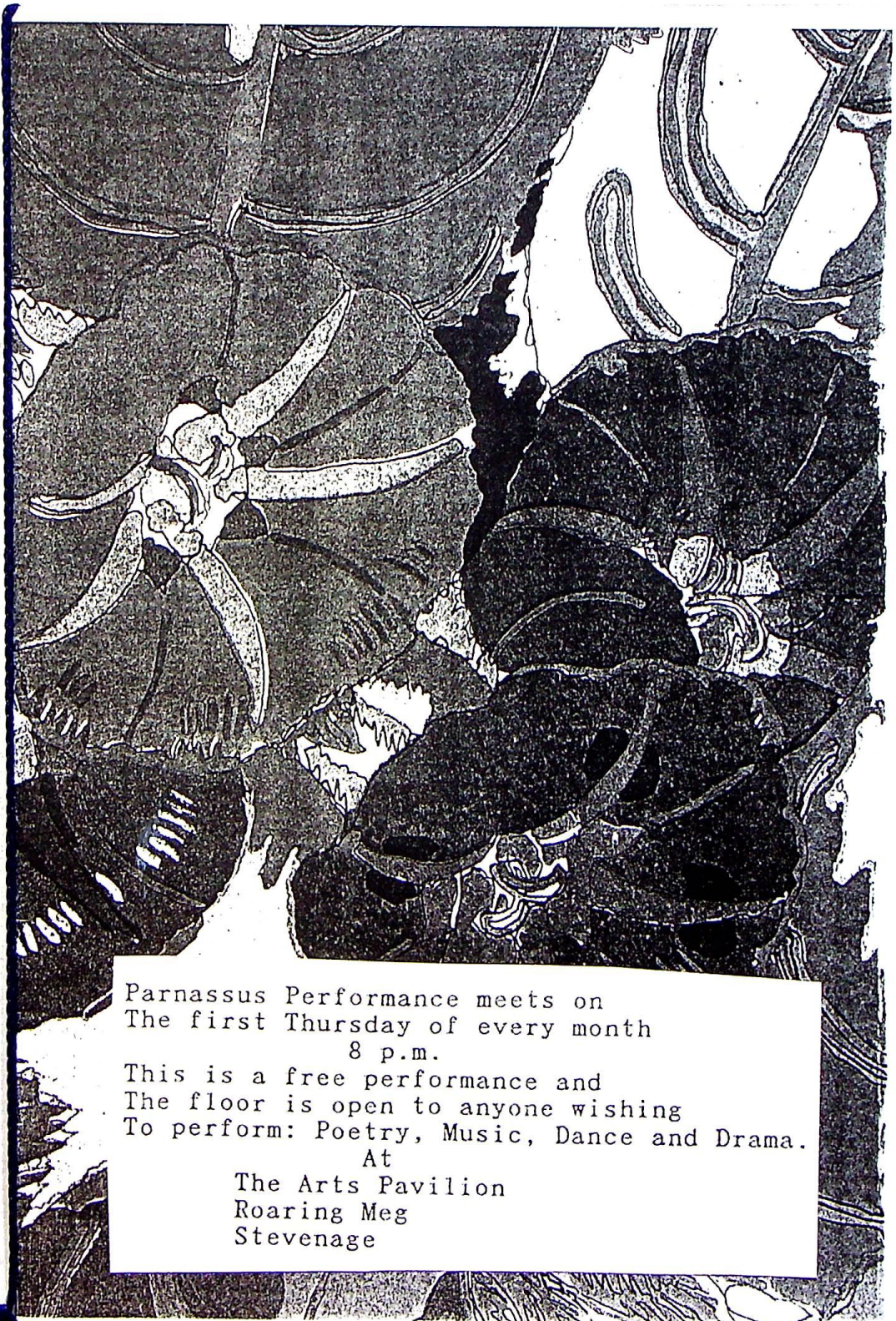
John and Sheila cut the cake. 15th June 1996.



A cake for John and Sheila.

Photographs taken and given by Isabel.

Stevenage Arts Festival 1996.
Saturday, 15th June 1996.



Parnassus Performance meets on
The first Thursday of every month
8 p.m.

This is a free performance and
The floor is open to anyone wishing
To perform: Poetry, Music, Dance and Drama.

At
The Arts Pavilion
Roaring Meg
Stevenage

As part of the Stevenage Arts Festival the Parnassus Performance group gave an evening of poetry reading at Springfield House, Stevenage.

P R O G R A M M E

Welcome to Springfield House

Your compere for this evening is NEIL HOPKINS

First Half

Dick Copeland

May Weston

Eve

Margaret Pickersgill

Paul Davis

Grant Meaby

Warren

Vicky Marks & Bhindi Sharer

* Refreshments will be available during
the interval.

Second Half

The Rainmakers

Susee Magenta

Graeme Lloyd

Lucia Birch

Neil Mason

Chris

Phil & Kath

FINALE

* This performance has been produced
in association with the Stevenage
Arts Guild.

They asked the Rainmakers to provide a short interlude of dancing during the evening. As we know, from experience, that Springfield House is small, Mark decided that two couples would be the suitable number of dancers.

Wearing Sicilian costumes, Mark and Patti, Adrian and Sue danced Tarantella Montevirgine and Tarantella Fusola to an appreciative audience.

Patti tells me that the Parnassus Group was very welcoming and hospitable. When they were thanked at the end the Chairman said that their dancing had brought an element of texture to the evening's programme.

They have been asked to dance again on June 22nd.

June 28th - Mark, Patti, Sue and Adrian again danced during Parnassus Group's evening show. This time they danced Kreuz Koenig and Parson's Farewell - a German and an English dance for four people. They wore German costumes and were described by the M.C. as "Poetry in Motion". Well done!

Saturday, 29th June 1996.

Dancing at the Victoria Embankment
Gardens, London.

A group of Rainmakers went to London on Saturday to dance on the stage in the Victoria Embankment Gardens. Westminster Council organise these free shows, mostly at the weekend, during June and July. They ask choirs, bands and dancing groups, including the S.I.F.D. to take part. It is an enjoyable day for the participants and gives some publicity to their groups.

Two mini buses, driven by Mark and Graham, took our party to London. The dancers were accompanied by Jacob's Ladder band from Cambridge. Four groups of dances were displayed - two sets of European dances, a group of Mexican dances and a group of Israeli dances. The dancers wore German, Mexican and Israeli costumes. Whilst they changed costumes the band played various international tunes. Also a member of the band gave a solo, the Flowers of Edinburgh.

I am told that there were people of several nationalities in the audience including Mexicans and Israelis - we hope they approved. It was a pity that it was such a cold, windy day to encourage the audience to linger longer. There was also a counter-attraction on in Hyde Park - a concert by The Who and Bob Dylan among others. However, the Rainmakers said they enjoyed themselves.



Backstage at the Victoria
Embankment Gardens
Theatre.

June 29th 1996.

Photos given
by Jill.



Jill and Graham
are ready to
go onto the stage.

International Dance Display

BY

The Rainmakers International Dance Group

Saturday 29th June 1996

We meet most Fridays in Letchworth ,Hertfordshire.

For more information phone: 01462 454210

Music by *Jacobs Ladder*

This display consists of 4 groups of dances :-

1. European

Tarantella Rivilisi (Italy)

Le Branle à Six de la Châtre (France)

Parsons Farewell (England)

De Horlepiep (Holland)

Jiana (Romania)

2. European

Steiregger (Austria)

Sandsvaraerriil (Norway)

Kreuz König (Germany)

Makil Ttikii (Basque)

Tarantella Fasola (Sicily)

Flowers of Edinburgh (Scotland) solo

3. Mexican

Chotis de la Frontera

Jota Tapatia

Balceto (S. American)

El Corrido

Jesusita en Chihuahua

Jarabe Tapatio

4. Israeli

Rav Brachot

Zemer Atik

Ssimchu Na

Hava Nagila

Ba Pardess

Hora Hadera

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

For more information phone : 0181 427 8042



The Rainmakers are about to perform a group of Israeli dances.



Carle in the sound room. She worked the tapes.





Jacob's Ladder Band setting up at
the Victoria Embankment Gardens
London. June 29th 1996

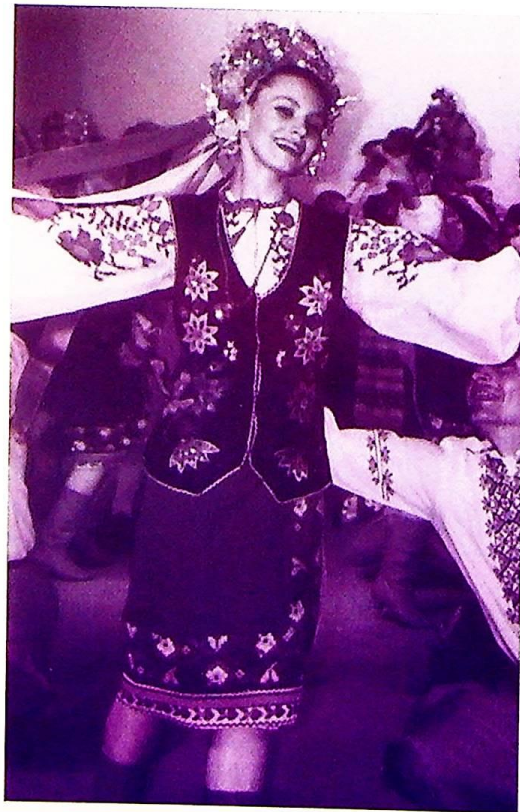
Milton Keynes International Festival.
July 5th - 7th. 1996.

THE 4TH

**MILTON KEYNES
INTERNATIONAL
FESTIVAL** FOLK ART

■ Friday
■ Saturday
■ Sunday

**5 - 7 JULY
1996**



Festival Guide

The Milton Keynes International Festival has become an annual event. It is well worth a visit as the participating teams are on their way to (or from) the

Main Events *at Shenley Leisure Centre*

Friday night concert

5 July, 7.00 – 9.30 pm

featuring:

from **ROMANIA** - Flacara Prahovei

from **LITHUANIA** - Pynimelis

followed by



Flacara Prahovei

Late Friday-night Ceilidh

5 July, 9.00 pm onwards

After the evening concert, let your hair down to the music of **Cock and Bull Band**. Caller Bob Adams. In addition to the lively repertoire for which this band has become renowned, there will be a chance to join our overseas guests in some dances from their own countries.



Kolos

Saturday night concert

6 July, 7.30 pm

featuring:

from **UKRAINE** - Kolos

an extended performance

plus

Lads of Richmond Hill

Deegan Academy of Irish Dancing



Pynimelis

Gala night concert

Sunday 7 July, 7.30 pm

featuring

from **UKRAINE** - Kolos

from **ROMANIA** - Flacara Prahovei

from **LITHUANIA** - Pynimelis

Tickets

	Full	Concessions
Concert (Friday and Saturday)	£6	£4.50
Gala Concert (Sunday)	£8	£6.00
Friday Late-night Ceilidh	£5	£3.50

Available from: MK Box Office (01908 234466)
Shenley Leisure Centre (01908 502488)
Festival Office (01908 610564)

Sunday WORKSHOP tickets available from Festival Office only.
£3 (concessions £2.25) per workshop.

Season Tickets covering all events available from Festival Office
IN ADVANCE only. Cost £22 (concessions £16).



What to see

130 visiting performers. Dazzling costumes, dancers, musicians, singers. We are privileged to be able to bring such rich talent from around the world to Milton Keynes. As well as being splendid entertainment, the festival offers a chance to meet different peoples, and to witness first-hand their cultures and traditions. All our overseas guests will be staying with local families and they will be visiting Milton Keynes schools during the festival.

From **UKRAINE** "Kolos"

Fast, fiery, spectacular dancing. Stars of Sidmouth Festival in 1994. Don't miss this.

From **LITHUANIA** "Pynimelis"

Outstanding children's dance ensemble aged 12 - 16. Fine harmonic singing. Distinctive music featuring unusual musical instruments.

From **ROMANIA** "Flacara Prahovei"

Vibrant, boisterous dancing. This group's energy and enthusiasm will instantly impress.



And from England

"Lads of Richmond Hill"

The Royal Ballet School's own Morris Dance team.

"Deegan Academy of Irish Dancing"

Possibly future stars of Riverdance?

Cock and Bull Band

The Beskydy Musicians

Klangollen International Festival, which is highly competitive. The teams dance, sing and play the items prepared for competition plus many other items.

This year the Romanians and the Lads of Richmond Hill (boys from the Royal Ballet School, Morris dance side) had to withdraw at very short notice. The festival organisers found replacement teams of an equally high standard. The venue was not difficult to find and the ticket prices modest. (See the leaflet)

I was present for the Gala Concert on Sunday evening, with Henry, Janet, Jill, Roy and Terry. We saw an exciting programme from the Lithuanians, a Polish team instead of Romanians, and the team from the Ukraine. We were seated close enough to see the details of their costumes as well as the footwork of the dancers. Songs by the choirs and instrumental pieces were interspersed with dancing. Several unusual traditional wooden instruments were played, particularly by the Lithuanians. The show ran from 7.30 pm till 10.45 pm when they had to be asked to stop.

Some Rainmakers attended the Friday and Saturday concerts and were equally thrilled. Several of our group also went to the workshops held on Sunday.

We heard later that the Lithuanians won their class at Klangollen.

Jill took lots of photographs and gave these for the Scrapbook.

Pynimelis from Lithuania.



The Polish Team.



Kolos from the Ukraine.



Photographs from Jill.

'Rowdy' old timers run out of town

By Simon Midgley

A PENSIONERS' Country and Western dance group has been told to find somewhere else to practise after residents complained about their loud music and excited whooping.

The group's 50 members have met in a village hall in Undy, near Newport, Gwent, every week for the past seven months.

But now it is having to move six miles away to Lysaught after the hall's management committee was inundated with complaints from local residents.

Andrew David, 52, who lives nearby, said: "The noise is unbelievable.

"If they want to make a lot of noise they should go to a facility that is purpose built for it."

Another resident added: "They are more like teenagers at a disco than OAPs. It's great that they've got so much life left in them, but we can't stand the racket any longer."

Gloria Dent, 50, the dance instructor, said she was very disappointed at the decision. "I hold classes all over Gwent and don't have any problems elsewhere," she added.

One member of the group said: "Perhaps the residents who complained should come to the classes and learn from us how to have a good time."

Report spotted in the Daily Telegraph 1/7/96 by Isabel.

And we think the Rainmakers are lively!

Flamstead Outreach Group Garden Party.
"Cheverells House", Markyate, Herts.

Saturday, July 13th 1996.

3.15 p.m. - 3.45 p.m.



This group of Rainmakers went to Markyate, near Luton, to give a dancing display at a Garden Party organised by the Flamstead Outreach Group. They raise funds to send voluntary workers to under-developed countries, (e.g. Annie of Rainmakers who did V.S.O. work in Belize recently.)

It was a hot afternoon but our dancers enjoyed being in a pleasant garden, dancing for a good cause. I also understand that they made a few useful purchases from the stalls.

FLAMSTEAD.

1. KUAMA ECHA. ALL.

2. PARSONS FAREWELL Graham + Janet, Adrian + Jill

(+ another set if you wish
Mark + Patti, Richard + Sue)

3. BAILECETO Adrian + Sue, Isobel + Richard, Jill + Julia,
Graham + Patti, Mark + Maria.

4. SANDSVAERILL Graham + Sue, Richard + Isobel, Terry + Janet

5. KREUZ KOENIG Mark + Patti Richard + Julia
Terry + Maria Adrian + Sue.

6. JIANA (as U.E.G. walk on during intro)

Mark, Graham, Sue, Adrian, Richard, Jill, Janet, Patti,
Maria, Terry, Julia.

7. MAKIL TTIKII

Maria + Graham
Mark + Janet

Adrian + Isobel
Richard + Jill.

8. HAWA NAGWA (x2 as U.E.G.)

① Maria Sue
↓ ↓
Isobel Jill

② Isobel, Maria, Jill, Sue.
↓ ↓ ↓ ↓

9. ZEMER ATIK Maria + Isobel, Richard + Janet, Graham + Julia,
Adrian + Sue, Mark + Patti, Terry + Jill.

10. RAV BRACHOT

11. TARANTELLA FASOLA Adrian + Janet, Jill + Maria, Graham + Janet,
Mark + Patti, Isobel + Sue.

ALL



The Rainmakers - - -



- - In Action



- - - And resting.

French Dancing at Letchworth.

Friday, July 19th 1996.

Simon and Joan Guest of the S.I.F.D. came to the club to teach French dances. Their programme was intended to revise dances that they had taught at a Saturday, Day Course earlier this year. Unfortunately attendance at that class was sparse, so most of the thirty plus Rainmakers at the club on Friday were doing them for the first time. Simon and Joan are expert dancers and efficient, kindly teachers so we all enjoyed learning the dances.

It was a hot, July evening - not perhaps the best time to repeat bourrées, so it was not surprising that some people were flagging or had given up before ten o'clock.

Simon and Joan did not flag - they seemed to have endless energy and patience with us. We thanked them warmly.

Programme.

LE ROND ARGENTONNAIS
LA BOURRÉE À SEPT SAUTS
LA BOURRÉE DES JEUNES
L'ÉTOILE
LA BOURRÉE DROITE DU PAYS FORT
LA CROUSADO

Friday, July 26th 1996.

End-of-Term Party.

This was the last "official" club meeting this term so, instead of the usual Friday evening routine, Jill had prepared a programme of requested dances. Most members were present and most of them wore a folk costume, which added colour to the scene. We were particularly interested in Annie's Guatemalan outfit that consisted of a very heavily embroidered blouse and an extremely wide, blue check, wrap around skirt - also elaborately embroidered. For part of the evening she changed into a white Indian dress, also heavily embroidered around the neckline, with a petticoat that is "supposed to show". Annie bought these genuine folk costumes whilst she was working in Belize. Photographs of them can be seen in Scrapbook, Volume 13, sent with Annie's letters. The white dress is called a "huipile".

During the interval we enjoyed refreshments brought by members and organised by Maria. It was an opportunity to talk about holidays in prospect or just over.

Quite a few of us will meet again during August at two Garden Evenings and a Pub Evening.

Programme for End-of-term Party.

Promoroaga

Hora Ciapuluguli

Lublin Polka

Kotatiki Ondo

Der Hingii

Erev Shabat

Bailecito

Rennigen

Jove Malo Mome

Joc de Keagane

Bate Bate o' Silva Verhe

Little Shepherdesses

Harmon

Ssimchu Na

La Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort

Little Man in a Fix.

Hora Hodera

Tarantella Montevirgene

Hora Mirescii

Ograz' denska Hora

Tarantella Fasola

La Bourrée Pastourelle

Erev Bah

Rainmakers' Garden Evenings 1996,

Friday, August 16th, 7.30 p.m.

About eighteen members went to Peter and Jill's home in Hitchin to dance in the garden. The evening was rather chilly but it was fine and dry. We were happy to meet there and be outdoors in such pleasant surroundings. When it became too dark to see what we were doing we retired to the house for refreshments, conversation and to see part of a video made at the S.I.F.D. Summer School in York. It looks as though two Irish dances, Hurry the Jug and a Waltz Collition, besides a French and a Turkish dance, are likely to become part of the Rainmakers' repertoire from this event.

Friday, August 23rd, 7.30 p.m.

Louise invited the club to her home near Bishop's Stortford. It had been a wet day but the weather cleared up and the Garden Evening went ahead. Unfortunately only five people were able to go but I heard that they had a very nice time.

Friday, August 30th, 7.30 p.m.

Julie arranged that the Rainmakers could dance in the garden of "The Cowper Arms" at Letty Green near Hertford. (if wet, indoors.) Twenty-one people went along. The ground was wet and it was chilly but the pub was busy and they had no room for us indoors. Undeterred, Roy set up the Coomber in the car park and we danced there. The lead for the tape player had to be plugged in the kitchen, via a window. Above this window was a vent for the

noisy extractor of fumes from cooking. Poor Julie was upset about this but we accepted the situation and kept dancing till nine o'clock. Two children came and asked Roy, if he was "going to light the barbie soon?" He was not! A few of the pub's customers came to their cars and looked rather amused - otherwise we were not disturbed. After dancing some Rainmakers went to Julie's home for tea and conversation.

We are all grateful to Peter, Jill, Louise, Julie, Roy and all who gave their gardens, made arrangements and generally helped these evenings to be a success. We are aware that a lot of work goes into the preparations.