



RAINMAKERS'  
SCRAPBOOK  
VOLUME 15  
1996 ~ 1997

Volume 15

The  
Rainmakers'  
Scrapbook  
From  
September 1996  
To  
August 1997

Cover picture:

Danses Gwenedout du pays Pourlet,  
(Guéméné)

Postcard bought by Cule whilst on holiday in  
France - Brittany.

Pilton Hall Nursing Home - Sunday 8 September 1996.

Anglian TV news has been running an occasional series of short items about various types of dancing within their area, and they had finally become aware of our existence. Their usual procedure was to film an ordinary meeting of a group, and follow this up by filming a special event such as a display or competition.

Our only booking so far this autumn was to dance at Pilton Hall nursing home on the afternoon of Sunday 8 September, and a cameraman and sound engineer were present to meet us. Their first activity was to take shots of people putting the final touches to their costumes (Basque, on this occasion).

I had earmarked 2 dances she thought were particularly suitable for filming, the first being our opening dance Rav Brakot. After a bit of experimenting with our entry (minus music) we were ready for the off. But just at that moment a biplane appeared overhead, and the TV men didn't want the sound of its engine on the soundtrack, so we had to wait. The pilot must have been curious about what was happening below him, because he circled round and flew over us several times while we glared and shouted rude things at him. Finally he took the hint and flew away, and we were at last able to begin dancing.

We had to dance Rav Brakot 3 times through — cameraman outside the circle — cameraman rushing on after us and getting into the middle of the circle — focussing on feet and on

upflung arms, etc. We then proceeded with a normal display (although we were being filmed for much of the time) until we got to Kreuz Konig, the other dance Jill had 'starred' for filming. One set had changed into Bavarian costume for this, and again it had to be danced twice. The other 2 sets thought we could rest on the second 'take', but were told that for continuity purposes we did have to be there dancing in the background.

Jill had to drop two of her planned dances from the end of the programme, but even so our performance lasted for an hour. However the residents, staff, and visitors seemed quite happy to sit and watch, and some were prepared to get up for the 2 joining-in dances Jill had included (even the sound engineer joined in Walecki!). And by the time we had finished dancing the barbecue was ready — sausages, lamb burgers, chicken legs, salad, creamy gateaux, and wine. Both the Rainmakers and the TV men enjoyed the feast.

Next Friday another TV crew will be at St. Michael's to film us 'rehearsing' for the display we have already done!

Isabel

Rainmakers dancing at Piton Hall Nursing Home - Sunday, 8th September 1996



Kreuz Köenig



Makkil Tikki



Baileato



Baileato



Rav Brachot



Rav Brachot  
(Note the T.V. camera for Anglia T.V.)

## DISPLAY AT PIRTON HALL NURSING HOME

SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER 1996

It was with more than the usual nerves that we arrived at Pirton Hall on Sunday afternoon, as we knew that the Anglia TV News cameraman would be there to film us in action!

The two members of the film crew had already arrived when we went into the house to check on the arrangements.

The weather was kind, if a little blustery, but not too cold for the most infirm of the residents to be wheeled out, wrapped in their multi-coloured rugs, to watch the proceedings.

We had been told that they wanted to show us changing into our costumes! Fortunately this only meant filming last minute adjustments to berets, headscarves and sashes, etc. We weren't sure if the sound was being recorded or not!

Once ready, we all trooped out in our Basque outfits to the display area, to start with Rav Brachot. We tried to stretch our circle round a colourful flowerbed with a statue in the centre but this proved to be impossible as there were not enough of us to go round!

So we danced in-between the flowerbeds, trying to avoid rabbit holes in the lawn (after waiting while a bi-plane circled round several times, the pilot obviously interested in what we and the film crew were doing there).

We had to dance Rav Brachot 2 or 3 times while the cameramen got various angles, from inside and outside the circle, with close-ups of faces and feet!

The programme then continued more or less to plan, with some dancers on the patio where the residents could see us, and one group on the lawn for the benefit of the cameramen. They had planned to film only two dances, but they added shots of some of the others as well.

One set of dancers had to do a quick change into German costume for Kreuz while we did Vi David as a join-in, and they had to dance Kreuz twice on the grass in quick succession!

Dances included Parson's Farewell, Balecito, Sansvareel, Jiana and Makil Tiki.



After we had taken almost an hour to dance just over half the programme (the whole display was supposed to be half an hour), Jill decided to cut the programme short, and went to the last dance, Walenki. This was another join-in, and the oldest resident, a very active almost 90-year-old lady, decided she would have a go. She will probably be the star of the show when the News goes out, as she attracted much attention from the film crew.

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, and the staff laid on plenty of punch to keep us (and the wasps) going, followed by a lovely barbecue to round off the event.

*Patti.*



Bretagne



Bretagne

Lovely costumes  
from Brittany.

Cards bought by  
Graham and  
Curlie on their  
holiday in France  
and given to  
the Scrapbook.

Friday 13 September 1996

Tonight we continued our progress towards TV fame! The same cameraman as on Sunday came along, together with the producer of the programme. It was decided that the first dance they would film would be our 'signature tune', Mayim, Mayim, and that the producer would dance it with us. She picked it up quickly when Jill took her through it, then before we danced it she spoke on camera about it being the first dance taught when the club started in the drought year of 1976. Of course, we had to dance it more than once for filming.

After that, Jill went on for a time with an ordinary programme, which happened to include Bonte de Cosnay, and later they asked for it to be danced again for filming, with the cameraman actually between the 2 lines of dancers.

During the interval the producer interviewed Jill, Mark (as chairman), Richard (no-one knows why!), and Moya as our oldest member. We were intrigued to see her waving her arms about, so I asked her afterwards what it was all about and she said she had been describing our Mexican costumes with the very full skirts!

After the interval they filmed a 'rehearsal' of Kreuz Honig, with Jill explaining and demonstrating points of technique to the set who were 'going' to dance it last Sunday. Altogether it was an interesting evening, which fortunately was well attended. Now we wait with interest to see the broadcast (or will we end up on the cutting-room floor again?).

Isabel

# BEGINNERS PLUS

WHAT?

*International Folk Dance  
for Newcomers. More experienced  
dancers also welcome. Instruction for  
all dances.*

*Line, circle  
& couple dances.  
No partners (or  
previous experience)  
necessary.*



WHEN?

*Saturday,  
28 September  
7.30 - 10.30 p.m.*

WHERE?

*Cecil Sharp House  
2 Regents Park Rd.  
Camden NW1  
Tube: Camden Town. Bus: 274*

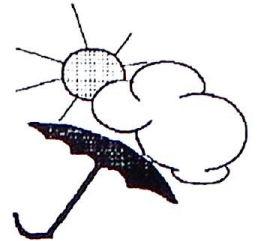
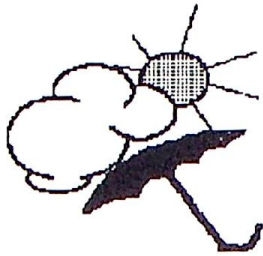


*£4.00  
(£3.00 SIFD  
Mem)*

*M.C.'s: Anne Leach &  
Pam Radford*

*BAND: Jacob's Ladder*

FOR MORE INFORMATION RING CASPAR CRONK, 0181 340 4683



# RAINMAKERS

NEWSLETTER No. 14

Oct. 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

## RAINMAKERS EVENTS

Sat. 26th Oct. 19.00 - 23.00 hrs	<b>Rainmakers Anniversary Dance</b> Entry £5.00 at Ickleford Village Hall, with Jill & Cloudburst. Wear costume, bring food or drink.
Sat. 2nd Nov. 11.00 - 16.00 hrs	<b>Workshop</b> with Janet Woolbar at Letchworth Methodist Church Hall
Sun. 1st Dec. 19.00 - 22.00hrs	<b>Rainmakers are hosting SIFD Dance</b>
Fri. 6th Dec. 20.00 - 22.00 hrs	<b>Rainmakers AGM</b> followed by dancing.
Fri. 13th Dec. 20.00 - 23.00hrs	<b>Rainmakers Christmas Party</b>
Fri. 27th Dec.	<b>NO MEETING</b>

## OTHER EVENTS

Mon. 21st Oct. 20.00 - 23.00hrs	<i>En Bouge</i> at London Welsh Centre, 157 Grays Inn road , Trad. French dance, live music.
Sat. 2nd Nov. 19.30 - 23.00hrs	<i>Roundabouts Dance</i> at Barnwell School, Stevenage, Brian Jones and Wild Thyme.
Sun. 3rd Nov. 19.00 - 22.00hrs	<i>SIFD</i> dance at CSH.
Sat. 16th Nov. 19.30 - 23.00hrs	<i>Fine Companions</i> dance at Addison Centre, Bedford, Lorna Coulson and Great Bear Band.
Mon. 18th Nov. 20.00 - 23.00hrs	<i>En Bouge</i> at London Welsh Centre, 157 Grays Inn road , Trad. French dance, live music.
Sat. 30th Nov. 20.00 hrs	<i>Traditional French Dance</i> at CSH live music.
Sat. 7th Dec. 19.30 - 23.00hrs	<i>Staplers Christmas Dance</i> at the Free Church Hall, Letchworth, Colin Hume and Wild Thyme.
Sat. 14th Dec. 19.30hrs	<i>Welwyn Garden City Christmas Dance</i> at Welwyn Civic Centre, Mark Elvins and the Ivel Valley Band
Sat. 4th Jan. 19.30hrs	<i>Roundabouts New Year Dance</i> at Weston Village Hall, Steve Gough and Ivel Valley Band.

## FAME AT LAST?

It was with more than the usual nerves that we arrived at Pirton Hall Nursing Home on Sunday afternoon (8th September 1996), as we knew that the Anglia TV News cameraman would be there to film us in action!

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Dances included Parson's Farewell, Balecito, Sansvareel, Jiana and Makil Tiki (apologies for any mis-spelling).

After we had taken almost an hour to dance just over half the programme (the whole display was supposed to be half an hour), Jill decided to cut the programme short, and went to the last dance, Walenki. This was another join-in, and the oldest resident, a very active almost 90-year-old lady, decided she would have a go. She will probably be the star of the show when the News goes out, as she attracted much attention from the film crew.

Everyone enjoyed the afternoon, and the staff laid on plenty of punch to keep us (and the wasps) going, followed by a lovely barbecue to round off the event.

Following the display on the Sunday, we then had the rehearsal for the display on the next Friday (the 13th!). Anglia wanted to show us practising in the Club before doing a display, and this was the only way they could achieve this.

The producer, Linda Fairbrother, came along with the cameraman, Gary, who had already seen us at Pirton.

Linda wanted to learn a simple dance, so she could be filmed dancing with us - so we went through Mayim Mayim over, and over, again! (pew!). They then filmed some of the other dances, including Branle de Connay, and showed Jill going through Kreuz Koenig with the display group as if they were rehearsing it.

Later they interviewed some of the members.

They stayed most of the evening, and said they had enjoyed spending the time with us. Now we wait for the programme to be screened!

*Patti*

## **FISH CATAPLANA**

If you've visited the Algarve in Portugal you may be familiar with the cataplana. The cataplana is, in fact, a cooking vessel rather like two inverted woks with handles, that snap together, sealing the steam and juices inside; otherwise use a saucepan with a tightly fitting lid. This recipe is based on a traditional fisherman's stew or caldeirada - a cousin to the Mediterranean bouillabaise.

### **M**ethod

Oil the pan and layer the tomato, onion, herbs, garlic, potato and red pepper, seasoning as you go.

Lay on the fish in large chunks and pour over the wine and remaining oil.

Bring to the boil, close the cataplana / lid and let it simmer for 20 minutes.

Add the prawns, rinse the cockles or mussels and lay on top of the stew to open in the steam. Close the lid and when they are opened all is ready.

### **I**ngredients

2 large tomatoes, 1 onion, sliced, 1 sweet red pepper, sliced, 2 potatoes, sliced,

1 clove of garlic, sliced, 2-3 tbsp olive oil, 1 tbsp each, fresh chopped coriander leaf and parsley, approx. 450g white fish, ie monkfish or cod, a glass of dry white wine,

4-6 large cooked prawns, a good handful of cockles or mussels.

*Curle*

## ***The Society for International Folk Dancing***

**T**he *Rainmakers* are an affiliated group of the Society; this means that we pay a fee which entitles us to two free teachers each year, we are listed in the S.I.F.D. publicity material and we receive copies of the monthly magazine.

Some of our new members may like to learn a little about the S.I.F.D. .

The SIFD was founded in 1946 as a result of the meetings of continental refugees and British students at the International Youth Centre. It is a non-political association of people who learn and enjoy the folkdances of many countries. It has a membership of about 700 at present. There are a number of specialist classes and many affiliated groups , like the Rainmakers, in other parts of the country.

Regular day courses and a monthly social dance take place in central London, the latter at Cecil Sharp House on the first Sunday of each month. A biannual International Summer School is organised by the Society. The Society also publishes instruction books , cassettes etc. (much of the recordings that we use at the club are S.I.F.D. recordings).

You might like to consider becoming individual members of the Society , it costs £10.50 p.a. (this is at the Country Member rate which is allowed if you live more than 30 miles from central London

All Members receive a monthly newsletter which provides information about many activities locally, nationally and internationally .You are also entitled to reduced charges for books and cassettes and entry to dances and courses.

The Membership Secretary is Alan Morton,

26 Durham Road, Harrow, Middx., HA1 4PG

If you would like more information about the Society please ask me, or any of the other S.I.F.D. members in Rainmakers who already benefit from being members.

Widen your horizons and dance with the world!

***Jill Bransby***

### ***From the Editor***

**T**his attempt to revive the newsletter to its former glory may not make the moguls of the press tremble in front of their word-processors but it is an encouraging start. In the New Year add writing an article (no matter how short or long) to your list of resolutions. We could even have a For Sale section; for a start I will have a computer for sale, complete with multimedia capability, next month.

More power to your pen or digits!

***Terry***



A Golden Occasion for the S.I.F.D.  
Saturday, 12th October 1996.

Society for International Folk Dancing

## **GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE**

**Saturday 12th October 1996**

**7.30 pm to 11.00 pm**

**Camden Centre, London WC1H 9DB**

(Close to Euston & Kings Cross Stations)

**With SIFD Players & Dunav Band**



Tickets will be on sale later in the year

Members : Single £10 Double £18

Non-members : Single £12 Double £20

(Including refreshments)

*Advance publicity.*

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING		
1	<b>GOLDEN JUBILEE</b>	1
9	<b>DANCE</b>	9
4	Saturday 12th October 1996	9
6	7.30pm to 11.00pm	9
	Camden Centre, Euston Road	6
	London WC1H 9DB	6
	(Opposite St. Pancras Station)	
	<b>SIFD PLAYERS &amp; DUNAV</b>	
	Ticket No. 0075	

*A  
"Golden"  
Ticket.*

**RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLKDANCE GROUP**

1976 to 1996



*A name-tag to wear at the dance - made by Terry.*

## S.I.F.D. GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE

What a wonderful gathering of old and young, new members and dancers from way back, and from Canada and Australia! We even had Frances Brown with us, who, with her late husband Nat, started us off informally, even earlier than 1946.

For me it was a tremendous experience, organizing this Dance. There was great enjoyment in solving the problems of contacting lapsed members. Sometimes this took quite a while, but I was helped by George Sweetland, Alan Morton, Jack Richardson and Roy Clarke, who delved into their records for addresses, and patiently did their best to give information. Thank you George, Alan, Jack and Roy.

Thank you to all M.C.s - Helen Ezra, Janet Woolbar, Jill Bransby, Ken Ward, Simon Guest, and Steve Steventon. Simon Guest nobly took on the task of co-ordinating this side of the Dance, collecting lists of dances from M.C.s and various groups, supplying information to M.C.s and musicians and myself, until his D.T.C. must have been red hot! He also did the countless other tasks involved in trying to arrange a balanced dance programme which would cater for the many different tastes of those present. My very grateful thanks go to Simon for all he did.

Many thanks also to the S.I.F.D. Players under the direction of Wilf Horrocks. In connection with this, we were extremely grateful to Tony Smith who provided Alan Humberstone, our pianist, with an electric keyboard as there is no resident piano at the Camden Centre. The Dunav musicians and singer were very welcome, and it was lovely to hear their special sound. Thank you to Richard Mellish who spent a couple of hours before the Dance, sorting out sound amplifiers etc.

Jeanette Hull and Helen Ezra deserve our thanks for much time spent in decorating the dance hall and stage with balloons, flags made by Helen, and banners, and putting up pictures on the walls. This was a mammoth effort, as was that of Margaret Elliott in the canteen/bar. Thank you too to the many people who supplied mountains of delicious food; and a special thank you to those who served it and worked so hard in the kitchen - Jean Cronk, Edwina Holdup, Vera Lagden and Muriel Gent.

This brings us to the really high spot of the evening - the CAKE, which was a fairy tale vision, which Sister Anna Huston made completely on her own and involved months of work. Thank you, Anna, for all the time and effort it cost you to produce such an unbelievably beautiful creation. Fortunately, it was photographed so that we can always see it again.

More thanks to those who dealt at the door with the crowds coming in, to the Fire Stewards, to Claire and Geoff Steeley on the Sales table, and to Anne Leach and Jeanette Hull, selling the new cassettes. Last, but not least, thank you to all who came to dance; there was a wonderful atmosphere, and you, the dancers, made the evening the success it was!

KAY KEDGE

S.I.F.D. NEWS -4- NOVEMBER 1996

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

# GOLDEN JUBILEE DANCE

Camden Centre, Euston Road,  
London WC1

Saturday 12th October, 1996  
7.30 - 11 p.m.



S.I.F.D. PLAYERS

DUNAV

# DANCE PROGRAMME

M.C.	Dance	Country	M.C.	Dance	Country	
<b>Jill</b> <i>Bransby</i>	Shir Ha Chatuna	Israel	<b>Simon</b> <i>Guest</i>	Karamfil	Bulgaria	
	Dorset Four Hand Reel	England		Karagouna	Greece	
	Chotis de la Frontera	Mexico		Pop Marinko	Serbia	
	<b>Steve</b> <i>Charles</i> <i>Stevenson</i>	Russian Lyrical	Russia	<b>Helen</b> <i>Ezra</i>	Hora Femeilor	Romania
		La Bourrée Pastourelle	France		Jiana	Romania
		Hambo	Sweden		Moi Muzhenka	Russia
		Kalocsa Leanytanc	Hungary		Jota Antiga	Majorca
		Jesucita en Chihuahua	Mexico		Maple Leaf Rag	USA
Bystrický		Czech Republic	Windmill		Germany	
Jabadao		France	Riepe Riepe Garste		Holland	
Ba Pardess		Israel	Waterfall Waltz		Wales	
Jota Tapatia		Mexico	Neapolitan Tarantella		Italy	
Newcastle		England				
Troika	Russia					
Tzadik Katamar	Israel					
Trip to Bavaria	Scotland					
<b>Simon</b> <i>Guest</i>	Kalamies	Estonia	<b>Janet</b> <i>Woolbar</i>	Polonez	Poland	
	La Bourrée Croisée	France		En Allant aux Châtaignes	Switzerland	
	Ambee Dageets	Armenia		Daldans	Sweden	
	La Bastringue	Canada		A Chula	Portugal	
<b>Ken</b> <i>Ward</i>	Makedonsko from Veles	Macedonia		Bavno Oro	Macedonia	
	Skudrinka	Macedonia		Maiezyt	Switzerland	
	Pajduška	Macedonia		Agir Halay	Turkey	
	Šetnja	Serbia		Dreisteirer	Austria	
	Kalendara	Croatia		Pariser Polka	Norway	
	Vranjanka	Serbia		Erev Ba	Israel	
	Struga	Macedonia	Makedonsko	Macedonia		
	Vlajnica	Serbia				

Refreshments will be available from 8.30 p.m.  
on production of small green ticket

There will be no interval

Our M.C.s tonight are some of the past Chairmen/women of the Society for International Folk Dancing. Dates of service are:

Simon Guest - 5.1.61 to 17.11.62  
16.11.75 to 7.12.80

Ken Ward - 17.11.62 to 4.7.64

Charles Steventon - 7.12.80 to 1.12.85

Janet Woolbar - 1.12.85 to 1.12.91

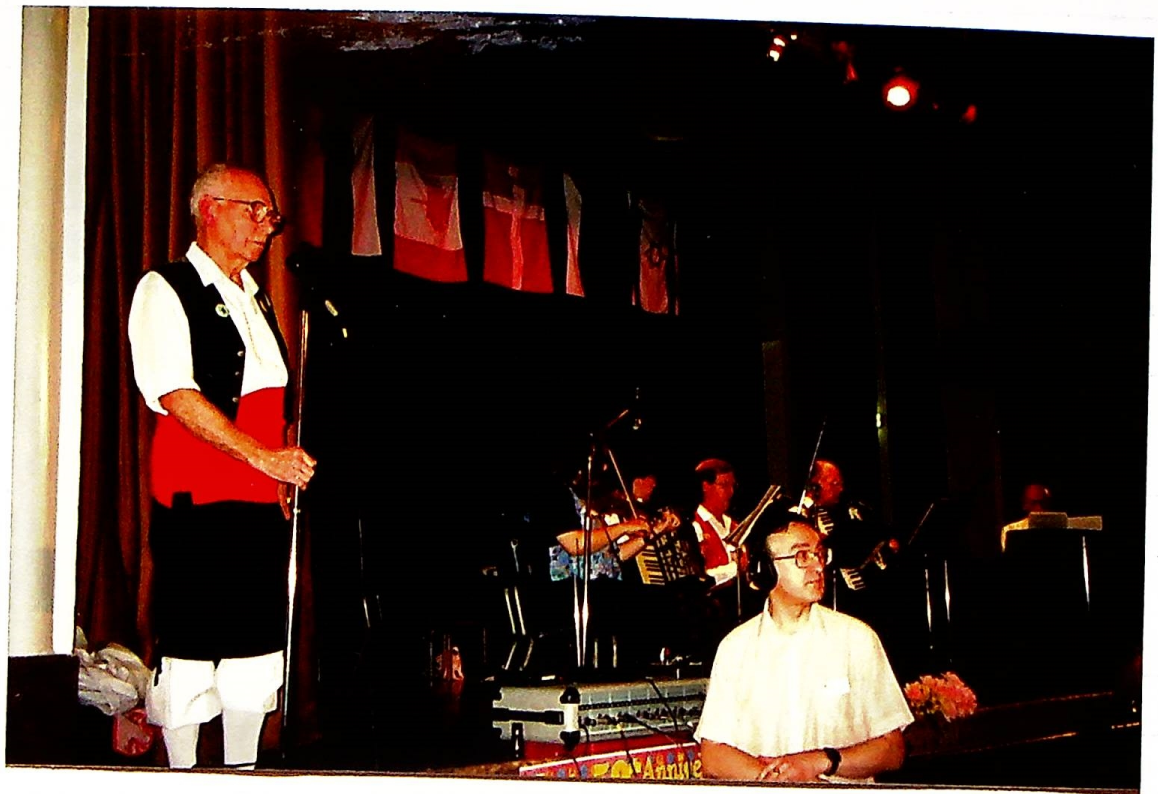
Jill Bransby - 1.12.91 to 3.12.95

Helen Ezra - Representing the present Committee



National Flags all made by Helen Ezra

Very many thanks to all those who have helped in any way with this special Dance



Charles Steventon ("Steve"), the S.I.F.D. Band,  
and Richard Mellish (sound operative.)



Photos  
given by  
Jill.

Jill Bransby - the first M.C. of the evening.



Claire and Geoff. Steeley man the S.I.F.D. stall.



Over 400 dancers, most of whom wore splendid international costumes.





Saturday, October 26th 1996

RAINMAKERS  
20<sup>TH</sup>  
ANNIVERSARY  
DANCE

WITH  
JILL and CLOUDBURST

SATURDAY 26 OCTOBER 1996  
7.00-11.00P.M.

ICKLEFORD VILLAGE HALL

TICKETS £5

RAINMAKERS ANNIVERSARY DANCE

26th October 1996  
7.00 - 11.00 pm

Ickleford Village Hall  
Ickleford, Nr. Hitchin, Herts

Jill Bransby and Cloudburst

£5.00 including refreshments

The date of the Rainmakers' Anniversary Dance was put back this year so that it

did not clash with the S.I.F.D.'s Golden Jubilee celebrations. Despite the later date and the fact that it is half-term week for schools (and teachers) twenty seven of our members, five visitors and Cloudburst Band were at Ickleford Village Hall last night to celebrate the Rainmakers' twentieth anniversary.

The dance began at 7.00 p.m. in the hope that Jill's prepared programme of dances could be completed. Most people present were wearing an international costume so the scene was very colourful. The programme had been very carefully thought out to include dances from many countries, some fast, some slow and of varying degrees of difficulty so that all preferences and abilities were catered for. It was so nice to see our visitors and, occasionally, members of the band joining in the dancing.

The first interlude in the dancing was an unusual one for us. During the Summer a small group of Rainmakers danced in Stevenage at an event given by an Arts group called Parnassus. In return Mark invited them to entertain us. A gentleman called Tom came along. He is a poet and he read to us four of his own poems which were about dancing. They are usually interpreted by four dancers whilst he reads. Unfortunately the dancers were unable to come but I found his poems very moving and interesting. Judging by the rapturous applause, other Rainmakers did too.

After more dancing we all retired to the ante-room for our usual spread of delicious refreshments provided by club members and organised by Maria.

Maria had also made a scrumptious pineapple birthday cake. As it was cut by Jill we sang "Happy Birthday to us" and Jill made a short speech. It was very nice to have time for conversations which is not possible on Fridays.

During the second half of the evening we paused for a raffle, organised by Curle and Richard to help the club's funds.

Another feature of the evening's programme was the singing of four songs by members of "Songs Plus" - a singing group run by Jill that meets once a month. We danced Hora Miressii, Karamfil, Mari Mariko and Toc de leagone to tapes or the band and the singing of Katka, Jill, Wendy, Lorraine, Helena and Martin.

Forty three dances were on the list and we did them all. It was a super evening and when Mark thanked the band, who played excellently, Jill and all the committee who had organised the dance, we all applauded warmly in agreement.

Cloud burst  
Band  
at the  
20th  
Anniversary  
Dance.



Programme:

Ahnelul	Romania
Hora Zemer	Israel
Branle de Cosnay	France
Scimchu Na	Israel
Pariser Polska	Norway
Vlegert	Holland
Nikolos (TAPE)	Greece
Dorset Four Hand Reel	England
Congo (TAPE)	France
El Corrido (TAPE)	Mexico
En Allant aux Chataignes	Switzerland
Hora Mirescii	Turkey
Shir Ha'Chatana	Israel
Bailecito (TAPE)	Argentina
La Bousée de la Chapelotte	France
Kulsko	Bulgaria
Russian Lyrical	Russia
Tarantella 'Fasola'	Italy
Walenki	Russia
Jove Malo Mome (TAPE)	Bulgaria

Ba Pardess	Israel
La Bastringue	Canada
Branle à Six de la Châtre	France
Gort Met Stroop	Holland
Agir Halay (TAPE)	Turkey
Jota Antiqua	Spain (Mallorca)
Mellionen	Wales
Karamfil	Bulgaria
Tarantella Montevirgine	Italy
Ys Wals	Holland
Tiedeliepats (TAPE)	Holland
Stepping Out (TAPE)	U.S.A.
La Bourrée Pastourelle	France
Rennigen	Sweden
Debka Kafrit	Israel
Mari Mariko	Bulgaria
Tançuj	Czech Republic
Maiezyt	Switzerland
Galop Kontra	Denmark
Joc de leagane (TAPE)	Romania
Hambo	Sweden
Neopolitan Tarantella	Italy
Hora l'adera	Israel

Saturday, November 2nd 1996.

Day Course - 11.00am. - 4.00p.m.

Tanet Woolbar came to Letchworth on Saturday to teach international folk dances. Sixteen members attended.

She taught eight dances - which seems rather a lot for one day but five of them were revisions of dances Tanet has taught us on previous occasions.

PROGRAMME: -

ZWART LAAT HOM SCHERIN	Holland
KARAGOÚNA	Greece.
DREISTEIRER LÄNDLER	Austria
SUCITUOARE	Romania
BVSUIOCUL	Romania
FADINHO TRES TEMPO	Portugal
DALDANS	Sweden
MOMBAR	Armenia

Cards received from Peter and Jill in Zimbabwe,  
November 1996.



Gentlemen!

Jill suggests that these might be the next costumes worn by Rainmakers or for the Hitchin Gathering.

They very much enjoyed seeing a display given by the descendants of Zulus.

Ladies!



Sunday, December 1st 1996.

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

The Rainmakers were responsible for organising this month's S.I.F.D. dance at Cecil Sharp House. Jill prepared the programme and was M.C. for the first half and Roy did likewise for the second half of the evening. The interval dances, to tapes, were led by Maggie O'Regan.

Twelve Rainmakers (plus Jill and Roy) went up to London - Mark and Patti even travelled from Devon and were only a little bit late. I estimate that about seventy dancers were present and often they were all on the floor - a sure sign that the programme has been well chosen. Jill and Roy chose dances to suit a wide variety of tastes and dancing ability. They included old favourites and some taught at the last Summer School in York. Many people were pleased to see Jan Knoppers, a tutor at York but from Holland, arrive and join in the dancing.

The evening ended with the whole company in a huge circle, with lights dimmed but holding lighted candles to dance Mowbar. (We were also trying not to let wax drip onto the floor or our fingers!) The effect was very Christmassy and it rounded off an enjoyable evening.

Programme →



December 1st. Sunday Dance.  
First Half. M.C. Till Bransky

Tzadik Katamar  
Hine Ma Tov

Santis Masoulke  
Moi Muzhenka

Tota Tapatia  
Jesusita en Chihuahua

Kulsko Hora

Raz Dwa  
Mellionen

Busuocul

Tarantella Montevirgenel  
Ys Wals

Dreisteiser

La Bourrée Tournante des Grandes Poteries

Tiedeliepats  
L'oferta

Pariser Polska  
Dal Dans

Agir Halay  
Fadinho Tres Tempos

Waltz Cottillion  
Congo

Interval Dancing led by Maggie O'Regan.

Second Half of the evening  
M.C. Roy Bowtell,

Salty Dog Rag  
Dondlebska Polka

La Bourrée Croisée  
En Allant aux Châtaignes,

Mani Mariko

Levi Jackson's Rag  
Ssimchu Na

Hora Hadera

Swedish Schottische  
Picking up Sticks

Shir Ha' Hatuna  
Harimon

Russian Lyrical  
Neopolitan Tarantella

Erev Ba  
Mombar (with candles)

Happy Christmas!

Henry Lee

RAINMAKERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Friday December 6th 1996 at 8:00 pm

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

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of 1995 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

Minutes of Rainmakers Annual General Meeting  
held on Friday 24th November 1995  
at St Michael's Church hall, Letchworth, Herts.

The meeting opened at 8:08pm.

Chairperson: Belinda Lansbury

Present: 19 members

1. Apologies for absence

Jill & Peter Bransby, Louise Tomlinson, Clive Bach, Michael Gilbert, Barbara Scholes, Sue Barter, Henry Lee, Hilary & Jim Cowan, Jackie Cowan.

2. Minutes of 1994 A.G.M.

The minutes of the Meeting held on 2nd December 1994 (which had been circulated in advance) were approved and signed.

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

a. Item 10. Belinda said there had been a long discussion under the heading "Rainmakers future direction". The main points to come out of this discussion were:-

For the committee to vet displays so that fewer are offered to the Club. Belinda said this is being done and displays have been turned down without the Club being asked.

Beginners workshops should be for dancers only. Belinda said in fact they already were, and have continued to be. However the workshops have not been well attended this year for no apparent reason. The new committee will have to decide whether to continue the workshops or not.

Shorter notices had been asked for and for people to make announcements through the Secretary rather than just shouting them out. This did work for a little while but then it slips as people forget. It was suggested that the noticeboard be put in a different place - this was tried, but did not work.

A reduced newsletter, more often, and with more dates was asked for. This has been done, and will be continued.

To try to get people to commit to doing a display when the Club is first asked. Belinda said that although this was a good idea, it had proved impossible to implement.

Belinda said it had been suggested during this discussion that it might be possible to hire St Michael's Hall from 10pm to 10.30pm for rehearsals. We now have permission to do this whenever we want without booking or paying in advance.

It had also been suggested that it might be helpful for newer members if we all wore name badges for an event. This had been tried at the Post-Gathering party, although no new members had attended. Belinda said that the committee were aware that costumes for new members and keeping older costumes looking good

were major points to come out of the discussion. Belinda said she would be interested to hear other people's views on this subject.

Terry said he did not agree with Adrian's point that the Club did not need to look for new members. Belinda said that Adrian's point had come after a large influx of new members and was only relevant at that time, as our numbers have now gone down again.

Terry asked if the Club felt that it was now time to actively look for new members. Belinda asked for a show of hands. The majority were in favour of encouraging new members - it will be down to the new committee to implement this.

b. Item 11.2 This display has now taken place and reports are that it went well. Louise was thanked on behalf of the Club for all the organising and teaching that she did for this event.

c. Item 11.4 Belinda reported that we have contacted the Town Twin Committee and said that we would like to accept the offer to go to Nuits-St-Georges, but would like as much notice of dates as possible. We are currently waiting to hear back from them.

d. Item 11.7 The Club will be hosting the December SIFD dance in a week's time, and also displaying the Candle Dance. Roy will be MCing the first half of the evening, and Jill the second. Richard and Terry will also do some calling.

#### 4. Chairman's remarks

Belinda said she found herself at the end of her third year as Chairperson and at the end of her term of office. Belinda said she was reluctantly standing down due to work pressures. Belinda thanked all her current committee and previous members of the committees that have served under her. Curle has agreed to be co-opted on to the committee recently and has agreed to take over as secretary should the members vote for her.

Belinda thanked all the other people in the Club who help in many other ways, including:-

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

Belinda had been very pleased that so many people had helped Jill by running Friday evenings, and thanked them all: Sue, Marjorie, Louise, Clive, Graham, Mike, Richard, Roger, Terry and Roy. Belinda would like to see more people willing to MC events such as displays, as Jill is doing nearly all the displays. Belinda said we would try and help anyone wanting to have a go as much as possible, but the only way to gain experience is to have a go. Belinda wished the new Chairperson and his or her committee well for the coming year.

5. Secretary's report

Mark's report included events from 1st September 1994 to 31st August 1995. Mark went through the highlights of the 5 displays, 2 day courses, 5 garden evenings, 6 Beginners Workshops, Anniversary Dance and Jill & Peter's 30th Wedding Anniversary Dance. Belinda was thanked for organising the Anniversary Waltz and Candle Dance displays for this event. Belinda thanked Mark for all his work on behalf of the Club.

6. Treasurer's report

Adrian pointed out that the net expenditure on Page 2 of the Accounts should read £2375.88 and the working capital should read £826.84 for the 1993-94 figures. Richard apologized for these typing errors.

Richard explained the notes attached to the Accounts. Richard explained that the committee had felt that all four pages of the Accounts should be signed by the Auditor before it is reduced down - this has not been done this year, but will be done next year.

Adrian asked how there was an income of £17 for the Albert Hall rehearsals. Richard explained that the committee had decided, as this was not a Club event, to charge £1 per person per rehearsal towards the costs of the halls hired.

Moya asked what the hats and costumes were that were mentioned in the notes for the Accounts. Richard said that there are two of the new type Mexican hats which have not been sold, but have gone missing. Betty said there might be some of the old type hats also that have not been sold. Richard said he was not aware of this and the new committee would have to investigate.

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

Belinda thanked Richard for all his work on behalf of the Club.

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 Patti. This was carried unanimously.

## 9. Election of officers and committee members

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

Mark Balaam	(chairperson)	Graham Styles	(committee)
Richard Thom	(treasurer)	Isabel Lamont	(committee)
Curle Lee	(secretary)		

## 10. Any other business

### 10.1 Belinda

Mark thanked Belinda on behalf of the Club for all the work she has done as chairperson for the past three years. Belinda was presented with a gift from the Club.

### 10.2 SIFD 50th Anniversary

Belinda said next year (1996) the SIFD will be celebrating its 50th anniversary. The SIFD have asked clubs and groups to do a write-up of past events to be compiled into a commemorative document. Betty has undertaken this work on behalf of the Club, and when Betty checked up with the SIFD she found we were the only club who had sent anything in. Belinda thanked Betty for doing this on behalf of the Club.

### 10.3 Hitchin Gathering

Belinda said that the rehearsal dates for the Gathering had now been set, and announced these dates at the meeting.

### 10.4 Newsletter

Terry asked for clarification as to what the Club wanted from the newsletter, as he felt it had become more a list of dates than a newsletter. Belinda said there had been discussion in committee and at the last A.G.M. about getting articles for the newsletter; the consensus appears to be that write-ups of events are done for the scrapbook, which is available on Club evenings, and as the newsletter is not sent out to all members its biggest job is to remind people of dates. Belinda offered to open this up for discussion. Richard suggested that we should send out the newsletter to all members. There was some discussion, because people do not have time to do a write-up of events for both scrapbook and newsletter.

Margery suggested that it would be nice for some of the very old write-ups to be included in the newsletter. Terry said he was willing to do this. Belinda said the feeling of the meeting was that the newsletter's main purpose should be to put dates in front of people, and if Terry has articles to go in the



newsletter, all the better, but not to hold up production of the newsletter waiting for articles. Terry also asked for clarification as to when the committee wanted the newsletter produced. Belinda said this had been discussed in committee and we would have to check the records to see what had been decided.

It was discussed whether or not to send the newsletter out to all members. Richard suggested that we try sending the newsletters out for the remainder of the Club's financial year as an experiment. Mark said, having sent copies of the A.G.M. minutes to all members for the past two years, he felt people did not realise the amount of work that would be involved in sending out the newsletter. Graham agreed with this. Richard said if Terry produced the newsletter, Richard would organize sending them out.

Graham felt it would be much better if the task of organizing sending out the newsletter was taken on by a non-committee member as, because of lack of members, the new committee's workload could be great. Roy said he agreed with Graham, but as it was only for a trial period, and Richard had offered, this should be tried.

Isabel suggested that if there was a newsletter before Christmas that an article be included outlining that subs are due, this was felt to be a good idea and Richard agreed to put a note in the newsletter. Belinda said she felt it should be for the new committee to decide who does this job, and asked the Club to vote as to whether they did want the newsletter sent out to all members. There was a majority in favour. Belinda said the new committee should take into account the views of the members, but it should be up to the new committee as to how, if and when this is implemented.

#### 10.5 Scrapbook

Betty thanked all the people who had contributed articles and photographs to the scrapbook. Richard apologized for not completing the compiling of the Bingen scrapbook.

#### 10.6 Moya

Belinda reported that the Club has finally managed to have use of a cupboard at St Michael's. This will allow us to store squash beakers, squash, washing-up liquid, tea towels, paper plates and cutlery, noticeboard, wipe-board, slip-stop, etc. The main advantage of this is that it allows Moya to retire from looking after the squash. Belinda said for years Moya has brought heavy bags of squash each week, put them out, washed them up and quietly taken them away. Moya has also performed this task for most rehearsals and day courses. Moya was presented with a gift from the Club for all her work.

The meeting closed at 9.15pm.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1995-96

<u>INCOME</u>			<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
<u>1994/95</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1995/96</u>	<u>1994/95</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1995/96</u>
973.25	Weekly subscriptions (1)	884.85	743.00	Hire of Hall	771.00
48.75	Party	-	23.30	SIFD affiliation fee/donation (2)	23.50
-	Donation	1.00	9.49	Tapes, instructions, videos etc	6.99
			42.91	Insurance (3)	48.70
			30.93	Squash	22.73
			20.00	Party	-
			-	Travelling expenses - Simon Guest	7.50
			-	Storage boxes (4)	8.97
			-	Incidental catering expenses	6.78
			28.00	Slipstop	-
		885.85	14.87	Miscellaneous (5)	67.19
		-----			-----
	<u>EVENTS</u>			<u>EVENTS</u>	
149.00	Anniversary dance	149.00	171.65	Anniversary dance	161.39
192.10	Day courses	38.35	131.80	Day courses	32.06
20.00	Displays	160.00	72.00	Hire of hall - workshops	-
68.00	Workshops	-	101.00	Hire of hall - practises (6)	104.50
-	New Year Dance	8.78	14.13	Travelling expenses	-
-	Victoria Embankment (7)	98.00	-	Victoria Embankment (7)	131.90
1328.56	Bingen		33.20	Gathering expenses	11.99
17.00	Albert Hall rehearsals		-	Cecil Sharp House display	8.88
		454.13	1347.41	Bingen	-
		-----	1.90	Miscellaneous expenses	13.75
					-----
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	
75.00	Annual subscriptions	75.00	14.43	Postage	22.55
12.79	Interest	17.17	6.50	Phone	4.50
			24.20	Stationery etc.	5.38
			2.75	Newsletters	7.00
			3.09	Scrapbook	13.39
		92.17	3.45	Miscellaneous expenses	
		-----			-----
	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>			<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	
			115.66	Speaker/Speaker Stand	-
			-	Battery Charger	14.99
			-	Equipment repair	42.88
					-----
2961.45		1432.15	2955.67		1538.52
-	Excess of expenditure over income (8)	106.37	5.78	Excess of income over expenditure	-
		-----	-----		-----
2961.45		1538.52	2961.45		1538.52

2961.45	Net Income	1432.15
2955.67	Net Expenditure	1538.52
-----		-----
5.78	Excess of income over expenditure	(106.37)
1234.98	Balance brought forward	1240.76
-----		-----
1240.76	Balance carried forward	1134.39
-----		-----

60.47	Cash in hand	88.96
1180.29	Bank	1045.43
-----		-----
1240.76		1134.39
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance)

408.14	Balance brought forward	292.48
NIL	Events Profit	NIL
-----		-----
408.14		292.48
115.66	Purchases	57.87
-----		-----
292.48	Balance carried forward	234.61
-----		-----

1240.76	Balance	1134.39
292.48	Equipment Fund	234.61
-----		-----
948.28	Working Capital	899.78
-----		-----

Notes attaching to the accounts

1. Weekly subs. - 1041 @ 85p down 104. The average weekly attendance is down from 25½ to 23½.
2. Last year I accidentally paid SIFD £23.50 for the affiliation fee. The 20p error did not show up until the cheque was banked. This was after the accounts were audited. Hence the 20p donation.
3. The sum insured on our equipment insurance has increased.
4. The storage boxes are used in our cupboard at the church hall.
5. This includes get well and thank you presents, which have been higher than usual this year. It also includes the cost of extra keys for the hall cupboard.
6. Hire of hall for practises:-  
Gathering - £68.00  
Displays - £36.50
7. The loss on the Victoria Embankment display was exaggerated by the need for two minibuses.
8. The excess of expenditure over income is due to the average attendance being down by just over two a week ie a loss of £88.40 and the exceptional number of presents given this year.

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



BILL THORNE - AUDITOR

RESOLUTIONS RE ANNUAL AND WEEKLY SUBSCRIPTIONS  
=====

Please read the budget together with the following resolutions.

1. The committee recommend the annual subscription remains unchanged.
2. The committee recommend the weekly subscription is increased to f1 with effect from 1 January 1997.

There has been a further increase in the cost of hiring the hall since the last increase in the weekly subscription. The average weekly attendance has dropped. This has resulted in our expenditure exceeding our income last year.

In drawing up the budget I have assumed that the attendance will remain the same as last year. There is no guarantee that this will happen. WE need to ensure that the income from Friday Nights balances with the expenditure.

INCOME

Friday Nights - Club nights 16 wks @ 23½pw @ 85p £ 319.60  
 29 wks @ 23½pw @ £1 £ 682.00

-----  
 £1,001.60  
 -----

Events - Anniversary dance (28 + raffle) £ 165.00  
 Day course £ 50.00  
 Displays £ 75.00

-----  
 £ 290.00  
 -----

Administration- Annual subs 50 @ £1.50 £ 75.00  
 Interest £ 15.00

-----  
 £ 90.00  
 -----

EXPENDITURE  
=====

Friday Nights - Hire of hall 45 @ £18 + 3 @ £9 £ 837.00  
 SIFD affiliation fee £ 25.00  
 Tapes etc £ 20.00  
 Insurance £ 50.00  
 Squash £ 28.00  
 Callers expenses £ 10.00  
 Miscellaneous £ 30.00

-----  
 £1,000.00  
 -----

Events - Anniversary dance £ 165.00  
 Day course £ 50.00  
 Hall - practises £ 100.00  
 Gathering £ 15.00  
 Miscellaneous £ 10.00

-----  
 £ 340.00  
 -----

Administration- Postage £ 25.00  
 Phone £ 10.00  
 Secretary's expenses £ 15.00  
 Newsletters £ 15.00  
 Scrapbook £ 5.00  
 Miscellaneous £ 5.00

-----  
 £ 75.00  
 -----

Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting,  
Friday, December 6th 1996 at 8.00 p.m.

The meeting opened at 8.10 p.m. 24 people were present. Apologies for absence were received from Margery, Clive and Louise.

The minutes of last year's A.G.M. were read.  
Matters Arising:

- 1) Workshops will be aimed at the whole club next Spring - not just for new members.
- 2) New members are being encouraged to join by publicity in libraries, in local papers and at displays in the Letchworth/Hitchin area.
- 3) The proposed visit to Nuits St. Georges is likely to happen in 1997.
- 4) The M.C.'s for the S.I.F.D. dance were thanked.
- 5) The Newsletter was discussed. It was not sent out until the A.G.M. papers were distributed.
- 6) Terry suggested that the Rainmakers' club could be publicised at Barn Dances in this area. Staplers do this and we could liaise with them.

Chairman's Remarks.

Mark ~~is~~ thanked the people who are not on the committee who do jobs for the club, namely: -

~~Maria - wardrobe mistress, catering.~~

Ann - publicity.

Betty - scrapbooks.

Terry - newsletter

Till - teaching on Fridays and for displays.

Mark then thanked the club's officers and committee for all their support and hard work namely: -

Cusle - Secretary

Richard - Treasurer

Isabel, Graham, Maria.

He also thanked all the people who had taken the club evenings on a Friday when Jill could not be there i.e. once a month.

Mark said he had tried to build on Belinda's good work. He thought we had been trying to learn too many new dances so future workshops should be for revision. Mark asked members to give more support to these workshops. He also pleaded with people to be more willing to plan and organise displays or to take an occasional Friday evening.

Richard thanked Mark on behalf of the club.

### Secretary's Report.

Cusle commented that the club had had a very active year having given a wide variety of displays starting with a wonderful evening at Haslington in September 1995.

Another highlight was the club's participation in the Spotlight on Dance show at the Royal Albert Hall in October 1995.

Many displays were given in the Herts. / Beds area including one at Pirston that was filmed by Anglia T.V. It may be shown on T.V. at some future date.

Three workshops were held during the year, the tutors being Audrey Whiteley, Joan and Simon Guest and

club teachers.

The Rainmakers also held their usual dances at Ickleford and were responsible for an S.I.F.D. dance held at Cecil Sharp House, London.

### Treasurer's Report.

Richard presented his balance sheet and budget for next year. He commented that the club's financial position is good but because of rising running costs, particularly for hire of halls, we should increase our income. It was suggested that the weekly subscription should be raised to £1. This motion was put to the members and was carried. The new rate will start from January 1st 1997.

### Election of Officers and Committee.

The present officers and committee were re-elected en bloc. Mark said that they really needed two more committee members to share the work. As no-one present was willing to stand the committee hope to co-opt two more people during next year.

### Any-Other-Business.

- i) The rehearsal dates for the Hitchin Gathering are as follows:—
- |                          |                  |             |
|--------------------------|------------------|-------------|
| December 10th.           | Radwell.         | 8-10 p.m.   |
| Sunday, January 12th     | Radwell.         | 2-4.30 p.m. |
| Sunday, January 26th     | Radwell.         | 2-4.30 p.m. |
| Wednesday, February 5th  | St. Michaels'    | 8-10 p.m.   |
| Wednesday, February 19th | St. Michaels     | 8-10 p.m.   |
|                          | Dress Rehearsal. |             |



- 2.) Members were reminded to put their names on the Squash Rota and to take home the tea towels to be washed when it is your turn to make drinks.
- 3.) Terry suggested that ten minute tapes that are now available might be useful to the club. Mark thanked him and said that the idea is already being considered.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Squash and dancing followed.

Friday, December 13th 1996

Rainmakers' Christmas Party.

Hoping that most of our members would not be involved in other Christmas celebrations at this time, the Rainmakers held their Christmas Party a week earlier than usual. This proved to be a wise move as about thirty people arrived and most of them were wearing a costume to add colour to the event.

As usual, Jill had prepared a programme of requested dances plus a selection of favourites. It was interesting to see that these included some dances very recently introduced to our repertoire as well as a few that go back to our early days — almost twenty years. The dances in both these categories needed some reminders particularly Gammel Reinlender and Hurry the Jug.

During the refreshment interval we thanked Jill for all her hard work that she does for us — teaching on many Friday evenings, planning programmes for dances and displays, acting as M.C. and generally encouraging us all. Mark presented her with a calendar using pictures of the Rainmakers dancing at events over the years.

The next interlude came when Isabel recited two long poems to us. The first was very amusing about the importance of a safety pin to dancers. The second poem was topical as it was about the Stone of Scone.

The evening ended with us singing a few carols, played by Jill on her guitar and Martin Butler on his accordion, before we danced

Mombar by the light of candles held in our hands as we danced.

We went home feeling that Christmas had begun.

Programme.

Requests:- Sharm A' Sheix  
Lamidbar  
Little Man in a Fix  
Swedish Schottische  
Cumberland Square Fight  
Kotataki Ondo  
Hurry the Jug (some of!)  
Ba Pardess  
Neopolitan Tarantella  
Maizyt  
Jove Malo Mome  
Mellionen  
Ganzel Reinlender  
Shir Ha'Chatuna

Plus:-

Mexican Waltz  
Gort met Stroop  
Nikolos  
El Corrido  
Galop Kontra  
Ssulam Ya' Acov.  
Dans Clem  
Rav Brachot  
Erev Bah  
Mombar (with candles)

To The Rainmakers



from Jie

Letter from Sheila and John Robinson.  
U.S.A.

9430 Wandering Way  
Columbia, I.D. 21045

5-8 December

Dear Curle,

Thank you so much for your note and great photo! I feel like a heel for not writing sooner. I have "proof" that I had good intentions at one time: a thank-you note for you (also one for Jill and Peter) written in July--before I had your addresses which were packed with our "household goods". Said "goods" arrived September 10, about 8 weeks after we landed.

I never thought I would feel so unsettled and take so long to get back "in the groove". The house was not a pretty sight when we returned. The poor bloke who lived here didn't have a lawn mower and just borrowed one from the neighbors occasionally. There were three 12-15 foot oaks growing in what had been the veg garden and several more in various surprising places about the property. Since we already have seven mature trees (including 4 towering oaks) we didn't want to nurture more. But what was worse is that the poor guy didn't own a Hoover either, but was naturally too embarrassed to ever ask the neighbors to borrow one.

Well, that is a long way of saying the house looked awful when we arrived. So dirty, I was on the verge of tears. Our agent had said he was going to have it cleaned before we saw it, and I asked him about that and he said, he HAD had a cleaning woman come in, but she concentrated on the bathrooms and kitchen. I am telling you...disaster area!

But the story has a happy ending: We had the place re-carpeted and repainted, we cleaned for about 100 man-hours between us, bought a new sofa, and with lots of memorabilia around to remind us of England and our travels, and I am finally very happily home.

Hattie is in school 5 days a week She loves it, and her teacher's name is Hattie!! She is learning an outrageous amount of stuff--good and bad alike! She loves dressing up and thought she was in heaven this Halloween--going door to door with two neighborhood girlfriends as a trio: an angel, a ballerina, a princess. They collected so much candy it could choke a horse. We ALL ate candy till we didn't feel so well every day for a week, and finally John took the rest to his office.

Hattie's big accomplishments this month include drawing a picture of a cat and labeling it. Then writing and reading back (in any order I as I point) Cat, rat, pat, sat...you get my drift.

I am still inundated with projects bringing the house up to par: Carpet people make a return trip today (I hope) to spruce up a bit of work on the steps that is not up to par and the painter has been called to re-caulk part of the cathedral ceiling that developed cracks. I hope to get the remaining curtains finished SOON--now that it is cold enough for snow outside, I realize I need to be able to cover the windows at night!

I have been enjoying visiting my Mom and Jim. We see them about once a week. It's great being close to family. There was a big reunion in September--the week before we moved into the house. All my sisters came in--Susan from Boston, Karen from Seattle

with her kids. FULL HOUSE at Mom's! Laura lives in the area and

*elle*

I see her and the kids now and then.

Bart is bluffing through his last year of school--not doing any work that I can see, and since John and Cinie (Bart's Mom) aren't worried, I'm not sticking my neck out, but I do wonder what's going on?!? He is learning to drive and he is on the football team. He comes home and takes "paracetamol" every night for his aches and bumps and bruises. It could be worse.

We had nine for Thanksgiving--John's brother and family and John's Mom. The turkey was 59 cents/pound, so I got plenty. My Mom and Jim came over the next night for a repeat performance!

We saw our first Christmas lights while driving to dancing last night. I am terribly disappointed by the dancing here. The regular group we left is kaput: no church or school will let them rent floor space on a regular basis, so it has disbanded. There is another group we dance with on Wednesdays, but it is so small we can barely make a circle for a circle dance--8 to ten people lately has been the total. Crumb! WE MISS YOU ALL!!

That is all the news I can think of for now: probably more than you cared to know!! Hope you and Graham are well. Give our best to all the Rainmakers.

Fondly,

*Sheryl*

P.S. Thank you for the great send-off last summer (Unbelievable it was that long ago!) and please feel free to share the letter with all the Rainmakers. We miss everyone.

Happy Holidays.  
*slr.*

PPS. - Here are some flyers enclosed describing sites on the internet to get folkdance info--also trips being planned from here.-- just for your interest.  
*slr.*

<http://www.erols.com/kbogart/dc1sfd.htm>  
<http://www.erols.com/kbogart/dcfld.htm>

(or)

# Society for International Folk Dancing

## CECIL SHARP HOUSE DANCE

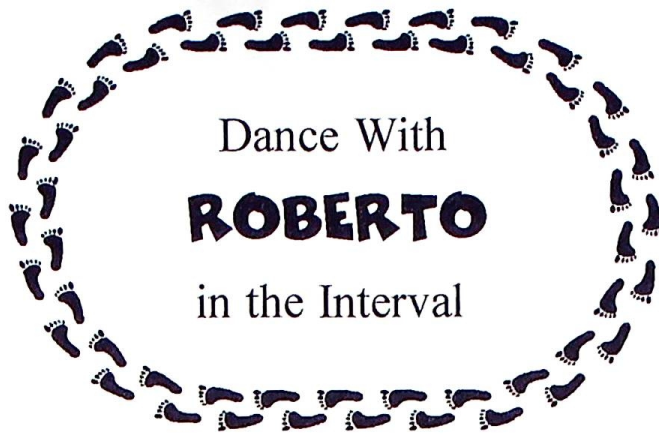
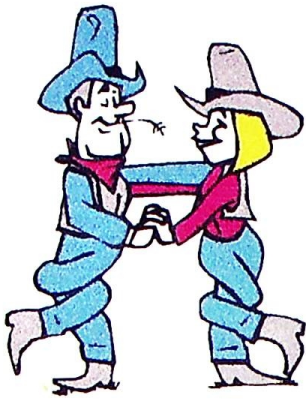
Sunday 2nd February 1997



Ivanitsa  
Le Rond Argentonnais  
Ba Pardess  
Kivi Kasukas  
Fyrmannadans  
La Bohemienne  
Sepastia Bar  
Gota  
La B. Droite Valsée d'Issoudun  
Oige Ja Vasemba  
Hora Chadera  
Sänftenberger  
Jiana  
SHERELE  
Deux, Deux, Deux  
Morpeth Rant  
Chotis de la Frontera  
Harimon  
Shir Ha Chatuna  
Russian Lyrical  
Nagelschmied  
El Rondon  
La Bourrée d'Aurillac  
Peyroton & Pantelon

Bulgaria  
France  
Israel  
Estonia  
Sweden  
Italy  
Armenia  
Portugal  
France  
Estonia  
Israel  
Germany  
Romania  
Israel  
France  
England  
Mexico  
Israel  
Israel  
Russia  
Switzerland  
Spain  
France  
France





L'Angoise	France
Picking Up Sticks	England
Jägermarsch	Austria
Vranjanka	Serbia
La Bourrée Tournante des G.P.	France
Miss Nancy Arnot	Scotland
Jota Antiga	Mallorca
Pop Marinko	Serbia
Pariser Polka	Norway
Trip to Bavaria	Scotland
Tzarina de la Abrud	Romania
Halelujah Legal	Israel
Dror Yikrah (Moshiko)	Israel
Hambo	Sweden
Circle Waltz	England
Karamfil	Bulgaria





Tuesday, 11th February 1997.

"The Superb Rainmakers in Action"

These were the words of the presenter of the local news on Anglia T.V. when members of our club appeared in the programme on Tuesday, 11th February. The item had been filmed on Sunday, 8th September 1996 when the Rainmakers gave a display at Pilton Hall Nursing Home and again at St. Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth on the following Friday club evening. These events have already been described by Isabel and Patti. We had been wondering when (or if!) the film would be shown on T.V.

"Have you ever fancied a saffarello (?) or a mazaruka?" asked the news reader. (Snorts from watching Rainmakers. "What other blunders will they make?" we wondered.)

"These are not dishes from a trendy restaurant he went on" But a couple of the two hundred dances in the repertoire of the Rainmakers." (We decided he must mean saltarello steps as in Italian dances.)

There followed a very nice scene of our club members dancing Branle de Cosnay as on any Friday evening, looking happy with a few hesitant steps here and there and Sue giving Adrian the "glad-eye" — after all it is a flirting dance — and everyone kissing at the end. Linda Fairbrother, the producer said that a bare church hall certainly is not rural France but a little piece of Gallic gallantry is being recreated all the same. "The

Rainmakers try to be authentic in their dancing and their costumes. Each of the fifty members has ten costumes. (Really!?) The club has around two hundred dances in its repertoire." (We actually have over four hundred.) "The Rainmakers step round the world, trying to be authentic" she went on.

We then saw Jill teaching Kreuz Köenig after which both she and Richard were interviewed. They said how much we enjoy our dancing but find the differing rhythms and steps of dances from many countries a challenge to perform well. We do our best to catch the style and nuances but know that we do not dance like the native born people of each country.

The film then cut to a scene of the display team dancing, in costume, on the lawn of Pirton Hall with the residents watching from the terrace. Rosie Lansbury stole a little of the limelight as she watched the dancers and waved a bit of shoub to the music.

An interview with Maria, our Wardrobe Mistress, came next. This was a surprise to most people as Anglia had filmed her at home, busy at the sewing machine (with no cotton in it) explaining that we make our costumes to look as authentic as possible by copying real costumes or pictures in books and on postcards. Our Dutch costumes are made from cloth bought in Holland and some members own genuine outfits bought abroad.

The film switched back to St. Michael's

where Linda Fairbrother told viewers why we are called The Rainmakers. Remember the drought of 1976 - we broke it by dancing Mayim Mayim meaning "Water, Water". Then Linda joined in dancing Mayim Mayim and she did it very well.

Finally we were returned to Pilton where the Rainmakers, some elderly residents, the nursing home staff and all the Anglia people that could be spared were seen dancing Walenki, a Russian dance (to an Israeli tune on the soundtrack) and they were all looking very happy. Viewers were left with the message that folk dancing for people of all ages, is a very enjoyable thing to do.

I will not carp at the inaccuracies that crept in even though the presenter did state at one point that "Most of these international folk dancers have got fed up with English dancing and Cecil Sharp" - which is patently not true. Most of us do both as it is all dancing.

Anglia painted a very fair picture of our club and its activities. We hope the film was useful publicity and it added a bit of excitement. After the screening Sue said she was telephoned by someone she had not seen for thirty years and Martin Connew said he was stopped in the street five times by total strangers who said "I saw you on T.V. last night".

Fame for six minutes!

Advance Publicity for the Hitchin Gathering.



COUNTRY DANCE CLUB



# HITCHIN GATHERING



*HITCHIN TOWN HALL*  
*Saturday 1st March*

2.15 - 4.30pm  
Adults £2  
Children £1

**AFTERNOON DISPLAYS**  
of dance, music and song  
in the folk tradition

7.00 - 11.00pm  
Price £5  
with supper

**EVENING DANCE**  
*Licensed Bar & Raffle*  
**Richard Young & Watling's Treat**

*For details phone: 01462 483960 or 01462 459349*

Daily Telegraph  
**Holland may  
have popped  
its clogs**

13/2/97.

By Robert Uhlig  
Technology Correspondent

THE CLOG could join bent bananas, chips wrapped in newspaper and chicken-flavoured crisps as another item to be banned by Brussels unless Dutch scientists come to the rescue.

Eurocrats want to outlaw the wooden shoes as protective work footwear unless they pass safety tests.

"We have got to save the clog," said Jan Broeders, a test scientist at TNO, the Dutch applied research agency. "It's a part of Dutch working life, and we believe it is just as safe as protective shoes."

Under the European Community's Personal Protective Equipment directive, the clog must be tested and branded with the European 'CE' mark.

Mr Broeders said: "It's the fault of the Dutch wooden shoe industry for not testing their wooden shoes and applying for a CE mark. Now we have got to hurry to get the clog passed."

Clogs have been a part of Dutch working life for more than 600 years and some 800,000 pairs a year are sold to people who wear them for work in Holland.

According to a report in today's *New Scientist*, the TNO is devising tests that compare wooden shoes and clogs to safety shoes.

These include dropping a heavy weight on the clog, impact tests, crushing the clog between two metal plates, hammering a nail through the sole and assessing the slip resistance.

If the clog does not pass, it will join Spanish wicker donkeys and Swiss cuckoo clocks as mere tourist souvenirs.

This cutting comes from the Daily Telegraph and was contributed by Isabel.

It seems that the decision to wear clogs for the first dance in our Dutch Crossing display comes only just in time as they may be banned in Holland.

N.B. Mine had woodworm and had to be treated when they were brand new!

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP - HITCHIN GATHERING 1997.

Today the Rainmakers are presenting a suite of dances from Holland and are wearing costumes from Volendam.

The music is played by Martin Butler and members of *Cloudburst* Band.  
The singers are members of the Rainmakers  
The dances are:

BOANOPSTEKKER (pronounced Born - up- stekker) which means the ice breaker (literally 'showing the way'). This dance is used to open an evening's entertainment -to 'break the ice'.

RIEPE GARSTE (Reepay gharster) means Ripe Barley and is a couple dance in which you will see the dancers arms move like windmills that grind the barley.

VLEEGERT (Flayghert) This is a popular set dance in which the men 'throw' their partners away.

ZWART LAAT 'M SCHEREN (Shwart lat mer scheren) means 'Blackie (name of a sheep) needs a shave'. The dance is performed in sets of four and is very similar in its floor patterns to those of the English Dorset Four-Hand Reel.

MIETJE KATOEN (Mitchi Katoon) is a jolly couple dance. The song that accompanies this dance is all about eating and drinking!

HORLEPIEP (Haul le peep) The final dance is a set dance for four couples - the sailors hornpipe.

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: DUTCH CROSSING

Advance Publicity, February 1997.

# INTERNATIONAL BARN DANCE



(BEGINNERS PLUS)



INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE FOR NEWCOMERS

More experienced dancers welcome

Instruction for all dances

*Line, circle and couple dances.*

*No partners (or previous experience) necessary.*



Saturday, 15 March

7:30 - 10:30



Cecil Sharp House

2 Regents Park Rd. Camden NW1

Tube: Camden Town - Bus: 274

M.C.'s: Phil Steventon and Jeanette Hull

Band: Jacob's Ladder

Tickets: £4.00, £3.00 SIFD Mem.



For more information ring Caspar Cronk, 0181 340-4683



Why not support this dance. It will be a fun evening. Notice that the band is Michael's "Jacob's Ladder."

Saturday, March 1st 1997.

The 39th Hitchin Gathering.

# S taplers



## HITCHIN GATHERING

1997

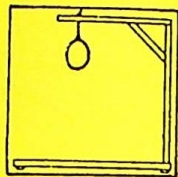
10p

For many members of local folk dance clubs the annual Hitchin Gathering is the highlight of their dancing year. They wonder whether their





# ASSIZES



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**FOR ALL YOUR ART MATERIALS**

## **THE 39th HITCHIN GATHERING** Saturday 1st March 1997

Welcome to all our guests, audience and performers to the Staplers Country Dance Club's 39th annual folk celebration.

Once again we hope you will enjoy our usual mixed programme of country and ritual dancing, music and singing together with our two mini-breaks for children's general dancing.

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 and to this year's compere, Stan Taplin, who will be linking the various items together.

We should also like to thank Pat Gray for leading the children's general dancing and the 9th Hitchin Guides for providing refreshments, plus the Hertfordshire Folk Association and Claire & Geoff Steeley for looking after the Folk Shop tables, the St. John Ambulance Brigade for being in attendance and Unicorn Sound Systems for the amplification.

Last but by no means least we thank all the performers 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 an enjoyable event.

(Gathering Committee 1997)

Don't forget that here this evening, from 7.00pm to 11.00pm,  
we present

**THE GATHERING DANCE**  
**Richard Young & Watling's Treat**

Cabaret : **Babylon Lane**

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 : Stan Taplin

Overture	The Orange & Blue Band
Staplers	"Welcome to St Davids Day"
Whitehill Whirlers	<i>Favourite Four</i> Durham Reel I Want To Be Near You Goddesses Otter Reel
May & Harold Ross	"Sam Sherry's Jig Routine"
Roundabouts	<i>A Suite of Dances</i> East Meets West Waters of Holland Long Odds Devon Bonny Breastknot
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Beds. Branch)	Alexandria Reel Cambuskenneth Angus McLeod Ian Powrie's Farewell to Auchterarder
Biddenham Handbell Ringers	The Cuckoo Skip to My Lou Lord of the Dance
***** Children's Dancing with Pat Gray *****	
Rainmakers	<i>Dutch Crossing</i> Boanopstekker Riepe Garste Vleegert Zwart Laat'M Scheren Mietje Katoen Horlepiep

Thanks to William Warder of UNICORN SOUND SYSTEMS for PA  
92 Austin Paths, Stevenage. Tel (01438) 222424

## THE GATHERING DISPLAYS

English Miscellany

Hoddesdon Crownsmen  
Hertfordshire Theatre School

Staplers

Offley Morris

Babylon Lane

Fine Companions

Cottonmill Clog Morris

*The Dargason Sequence*

Dargason  
Fair Quaker of Deal  
Hey Boys  
Step Stately

Rapper Sword Dances  
*A Contemporary Dance*  
"Generations"

*Saint David*

Dewi Sant  
The Bishop  
King Arthur's Round  
The First of March

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

Orange In Bloom (Sherborne)  
Postman's Knock (Adderbury)  
Songs from the American  
"Shape Note" tradition.

*Spring Fever*

Spring  
Bonnie Cuckoo  
The March Hare  
The First of April

Sparrowhill  
Nutsford

Please Join us in Circassian Circle

Music, Dances, Songs & Souvenirs  
**FOLK SHOPS**  
in the Small Hall  
by  
The Hertfordshire Folk Association  
&  
The  
Society For International Folk Dance

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 : 8 to 10pm on most Monday evenings in Bancroft Hall, Recreation Ground, Bancroft, Hitchin. We are a lively, mixed Club with over 90 members and warmly welcome newcomers. To find out more about us, contact :- Steve or Carol (01462) 730497 or Michael (01462) 438960

## CONTACTS FOR OUR GUESTS

"Babylon Lane"	Ms Steve Fletcher. Hitchin (01462) 458351
Biddenham Handbell Ringers	Mrs Anthea Slark Bedford (01234) 350644
Cottonmill Clog Morris	"J-P" Edmonds. Luton (01582) 842647
English Miscellany	Mrs Jenny Lane. Harpenden (01582) 764084
Fine Companions	Elizabeth Lambert. Bedford (01234) 342121
Hertfordshire Theatre School	Vicky Turner. Hitchin (01462) 421416
Hoddesdon Crownsmen	Ken Arton. Bishops Stortford (01279) 723433
May & Harold Ross	Hitchin (01462) 700164
Offley Morris	Albert Openshaw. Stevenage (01438) 368455
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society (Beds).	George M.Hogg. Bedford (01234) 781196
Rainmakers	Curle Lee. Hitchin (01462) 490071
Roundabouts	Mrs Pat White. Stevenage (01438) 354488
Whitehill Whirlers	Ann Gibson. Hitchin (01462) 450997

We look forward to seeing you at

## THE 40th HITCHIN GATHERING

on Saturday 7th March 1998

# HAWKINS

of HITCHIN  
EST. 1863

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Established over 130 years



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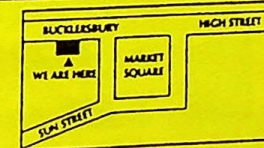
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Herts SG5 1BB  
Telephone: (01462) 632200



clubs will be invited to take part. When the invitation comes (usually at the end of September) a display is planned - (to last precisely six minutes) and often, new costumes are made. Dances are rehearsed, live "musicians" are found to accompany the dancers, and the whole thing is anticipated with pleasure and a certain amount of trepidation as every participating club wants to do its best and things can go wrong.

For the Staplers Club the Gathering means an incredible amount of hard work and precision planning over the whole year. Those of us who have taken part always marvel at the way every small item of organisation has been thought out carefully so that the event runs smoothly. All their members lend a hand in some way or another and they often do not see the show because they are stewarding behind the scenes. The Gathering Committee and their helpers have to be at the Town Hall from o'clock in the morning. In recent years it has become harder for them to find a variety of performers of a high standard willing to take part in the afternoon show. There has also been a dearth of younger people willing to go onto the committee to take on some of the work, so reluctantly, the Staplers have decided that next year's Gathering is likely to be the last one. We were very sad to hear this but it is very understandable.

The first Saturday in March fell on St. David's Day this year so the Town Hall was appropriately decorated with daffodils and Stan Taplin, the

Master of Ceremonies, cheerily (and bravely) greeted us in Welsh. Roger Nicholls and the Orange and Blue Band played a delightful overture of Welsh tunes and members of the Staplers Club danced a suite of Welsh dances to "Welcome St. David's Day".

Despite the worries of the committee (and because of their careful planning) the afternoon provided a variety of entertainment for the audience. There were English dance teams, a Scottish Dance group, handbell ringers, Contemporary dance, songs from the American "shape note" tradition, a suite of Dutch dances and children's dancing. My favourite spot this year was of clog dancing by May and Harold Ross who gave us a performance of jigs devised by the veteran clog dancer from Lancashire, Sam Sherry. They were superb.

The Rainmakers' item this year was a suite of Dutch dances. All the performers wore Volendam costume, including some Dutch clogs, worn for the entry dance, Boanupstekker. These looked (and sounded) very effective. A snag arose when a quick change of shoes was necessary - hot feet had swollen and it was not easy to be quick so the band had to play a few more bars whilst some dancers struggled to fasten shoes. We were told afterwards that the audience did not notice. After this little hiatus all went well and the rest of the display looked very good indeed. The dancers were accompanied, as usual, by Martin Butler leading Cloudburst Band, with the addition of Martin's father playing the accordion. Mr. Butler is a Dutch speaker and he

helped us to learn the words of three Dutch songs. A new feature for the Rainmakers' display this year was a small "backing group" of singers to help out the breathless dancers by singing Riepe Granste, Zwart Laat M'Scheren and Mietje Katoen with the band. Someone suggested that we should be The Spice Girls(!!?) but Curle kindly amended this to The Nice Girls.

During the evening dance several complimentary comments came the way of Janet and other Rainmakers who were there. One person said "I thought you were real Dutch people until I saw you, Janet."

We hope that the Stappers will find it possible to organise Gatherings in future years - possibly on an occasional basis.



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We hope that the Stappers will find it possible to organise Gatherings in future years - possibly on an occasional basis.

5th March.

Thanks to all who took part in the Dutch display on Saturday. After the 1st min or so (which seemed like an hour) it went splendidly and many people thought it was an attractive and lively display with good dancing and interesting patterns - Great teamwork!

Many thanks  
Jill.

Master of Ceremonies, cheerily (and bravely) greeted us in Welsh. Roger Nicholls and the Orange and Blue Band played a delightful overture of Welsh tunes and members of the Staplers Club danced a suite of Welsh dances to "Welcome St. David's Day".

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Dress Rehearsal at St. Michael's.



Ready for Buonapstekker.



Practising the Horlepiep.



Rehearsals are fun!



The team in the bar before display .



Geoff, and Claire who manned the S.I.F.D. and E.F.D.S.S. stalls all afternoon at the Town Hall .

# Souvenir programme

for the 22nd



Bishop Bell School, Priory Road, Eastbourne

May 2nd - 5th 1997



### Message from The Worshipful the Mayor of Eastbourne

It gives me great pleasure to welcome the International Folk Festival to Eastbourne for its 22nd year.

Nestling between the majesty of the Downs and the grandeur of the seafront, Eastbourne seems the perfect place to celebrate the coming of summer with dance and music.

I'm sure you will have a worthwhile festival; you certainly contribute to bringing colour to the Borough, but above all - have fun and enjoy yourselves!

**Robert G Kirtley**

**Mayor**



Eastbourne International Folk Festival is supported by Eastbourne Borough Council



Gabhru Punjab De

# WELCOME TO EASTBOURNE....

... for our twenty-second festival.

Once more performers have been badgered for photographs and workshop details, countless versions of the running order have been checked, revised and checked again, and long hours spent slaving over a hot Mac to bring you the souvenir programme. If you are reading this in advance of the festival weekend, then we hope that there is plenty here to whet your appetites.

At the time of going to press we see no reason to expect any changes in this programme, but we say that every year and there always are last minute amendments. So, if there are changes then there will be notices posted in the reception area, where you will also find a very large (and updated, if

necessary) version of the timetable on the centrespread of this programme.

And talking of reception, we have a permanently manned desk there for any and all enquiries. If you have any questions or problems either ask there or talk to a committee member, who all wear name badges. Don't forget we are always open to suggestions, so please let us know if there is a style of dance, or a particular performer, we should consider for the future.

## Parking

There is (nearly) enough parking in our main car park at Bishop Bell School. Regulars will be as horrified as we

were to discover the erection of basketball hoops in what we call the car park:: we don't think it will reduce capacity!

In the mornings and evenings we have stewards to help you park. Please co-operate with them, as they do their best to make room for as many cars as possible.

There is also parking at Langney School, if you are dancing there. Langney Community Centre has no parking, but it is only a short walk from the two schools.

While we have never had a problem, we have to warn you that we cannot accept any responsibility for loss or damage in the car parks.

Please remember that the streets between the two schools form a residential area. If we park there, we are perhaps preventing someone from parking near their home. Stick to the car park whenever possible.

## Food and drink

In both Bishop Bell and Langney Schools there are canteens serving hot and cold drinks, and snacks and sandwiches, more or less all day.

Hot lunches and a salad bar are available in our main canteen in Bishop Bell School. Each morning we will post

the dishes of the day. We ask you to order in advance if possible: it helps us get the quantities right. If you have not ordered we can probably feed you, but please wait until the main queue has subsided.



**Andrew Shaw**

One of the best features about Eastbourne, we think, is that we run our workshop programme in blocks to give you the maximum choice. You never have to miss a part of one workshop just to get to another. The only disadvantage is that everyone in the festival breaks for lunch at the same time.

The committee spends more time discussing the flow of people through the canteen than any other topic.

## 1997 FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

**Sally Bennett** ..... outside events  
**Madeline Blenkin** ..... catering  
**Joan Downing** ..... catering  
**Helen Ezra** ..... international  
**Dick Hobbs** programme, publicity  
**Jan Hobbs** ..... festival director  
**Val McIntosh** ..... catering

**Elizabeth Munday** ..... treasurer  
**Roger Munday** ..... committee  
**Dave Rannie** ..... outside events  
**David Shockley** ticket sales, shop  
**Mary Shockley** ticket sales, shop  
**Judy Wright** ..... secretary  
**Richard Wright** ..... chief steward

Once more we have tried to improve the system this year, but to be perfectly honest, there is no real way of avoiding a certain amount of chaos in trying to serve all the lunches at the same time. Please bear with us.



**Sundsvalls Folkdansgille**

To ease the pressure, we ask that you do not eat your own food in the Bishop Bell canteen. The dining area at Langney School can be used for picnics, and it is always nice when the weather is kind enough to eat outdoors at lunchtime.

Room one (immediately behind reception) is a quiet lounge. It is not intended for meals, but please feel free to take your coffee through there after you have finished eating. Also along that same corridor are the festival shops. Do take the time to have a good browse around.

We have a bar serving beer, wine, cider and juices. It, too, is situated in the canteen at Bishop Bell School. It should be open more or less whenever you are thirsty. A handy hint is that there is rarely much of a queue at the bar at lunchtime, so it might pay you to get your drinks first while the main lunch queue is served.

No food or drink is allowed in the main hall, gym, or the classrooms used for workshops. At Langney it helps if you keep food and drink to tables on the platform area.

The canteen, bar and shops are all run by volunteers who give up a large part of their weekend to this valuable and unsung work. Your custom and their efforts also make a big contribution to festival funds, ensuring that we can continue to maintain our high standards. Incidentally, we are always short of stewards, so if you feel that you could help in future years please mention it to a committee member.

Our hosts in the two schools are naturally keen that we do not damage the floors, and so a steward may ask to check your soles. In general, normal dancing shoes are the thing to wear. For sessions in the gym, soft soled shoes only, please. For clog workshops feel free to wear your clogs.

Please also note that smoking is not allowed within any of the venues. Smokers should hope for fine weather.

### Outside events

Regulars to Eastbourne will know that, as well as the programme of dances and workshops in the schools, we put on a programme of public events in the town centre during Saturday.

Our visiting dance groups and local display teams will, as before, be giving displays in the shopping area in central Eastbourne on Saturday, from 11:00 to 2:45. Then, led by the May Queen

## DANCE DISPLAYS IN EASTBOURNE

As always at Eastbourne, during the course of Saturday we will run a programme of dance displays from local and visiting groups for the general public, with a procession and the ever-popular Ceremony of the Crowning of the May Queen. The programme is:

- 11:00 - 2:45 Dance displays outside Boots and near The Terminus
- 3:00 Procession from the town centre to the sea front
- 3:15 - 3:45 Dancing at the Bandstand
- 4:00 The May Queen Ceremony

The 1997 May Queen is **Claire Walker**, who will be attended by **Rebecca Gibbons** and **Donna Parry**. Claire will be crowned by The Worshipful the Mayor of Eastbourne, Robert Kirtley. Following the ceremony there will be displays from our guests and local groups.

Teams appearing in our public events will include:

- |                              |                            |                                 |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b>Cherokee Country</b>      | <b>Daisy Roots</b>         | <b>Gabhru Punjab De</b>         |
| <b>Hawkes Farm CP School</b> | <b>Kettle Bridge Clogs</b> | <b>Long Man Morris</b>          |
| <b>Old Star Morris</b>       | <b>Ragged Rapper</b>       | <b>The Sabotiers</b>            |
| <b>Shinewater CP School</b>  |                            | <b>Sundsvalls Folkdansgille</b> |

and her attendants, all will move in procession to the sea front, where there will be additional displays at the bandstand on our way to the Wish Tower Lawns.

The Ceremony of Crowning the May Queen will be performed by the Mayor of Eastbourne at 4:00. All of our visiting groups will have a chance to perform for the large crowd we hope to have there. There will also be maypole and country dances by children from Shinewater CP School in Eastbourne and Hawkes Farm School in Hailsham.

This year's May Queen is Claire Walker, her attendants are Rebecca Gibbons and Donna Parry.

Saturday's events in the town centre are produced in association with Long Man Morris, and we are extremely grateful for their sterling efforts all day.

The problem with packing the workshop programme so full is that you may not want to miss anything. To give you a chance to see some of our visitors perform, last year we held an extremely informal concert showcase in the canteen on Saturday night. It was such a successful innovation that it instantly became a permanent fixture in the programme.

Feel free to drop in for any or all of it. Get a drink from the bar, take the weight off your feet and watch someone else do the dancing. We do

not publish a programme for it - last year the running order changed several times during the event itself - so look in and see what serendipity offers you.

### Extra dances

We have finally achieved one of the festival's longest-held ambitions: a venue for the fourth dance on Saturday and Sunday nights which is within walking distance of the other three.

Langney Community Centre is just the other side of Langney School, so none of the events are more than a couple of minutes' walk away from anywhere. We hope that plenty of you will take the opportunity to try more than one dance, and maybe even all four in the evening.

Your festival season ticket covers all workshops and dances, including the evening dances at Langney Community Centre. If any event looks like getting too crowded for comfortable dancing (Monday afternoon aside) then we will control numbers, but otherwise you are free to visit any or every event. Festival tickets are limited by the numbers we can comfortably handle across the spread of four dances each evening, so if you find one room too crowded, then there will be space in another, we promise.

And finally, from all the committee, have a very happy weekend of good music and dance in pleasant company. If there is anything we can do to make the experience even better, then just ask.

And don't forget to leave a stamped, addressed envelope at reception for details of next year's festival, from Friday May 1 until Monday May 4, 1998. See you there!

## SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERT

An informal concert featuring the festival's finest in music, song and dance. No published programme: drop in and take pot luck, or join us for the whole evening, with:

**Cherokee Country**

**Daisy Roots**

**Gabhru Punjab De**

**Kettle Bridge Clogs**

**Long Man Morris**

**Odds & Clogs**

**Old Star Morris**

**Ragged Rapper**

**Sour Mash**

**Sundsvalls Folkdansgille**

**Tapsall Catch**

The concert runs continuously from 8:00 to 11:00 in the canteen. Get yourself a drink from the bar, make yourself comfortable, and enjoy the variety and entertainment.



**Odds & Clogs**



# OUR QUESTS FOR 1997....

The alphabetical review starts with **Alterations**, who helpfully provided the following:

- A four piece band this year
- Lots of strings plus box
- Traditional tunes preferred
- Especially English ones,
- Reels from Canada
- And the USA.
- Tunes for country dances & contras
- Improvised not arranged
- Once through and
- Nobody knows what happens next.
- See you over the weekend!



Linda Moon

Alterations are regular visitors to Eastbourne and always welcome. In their 1997 incarnation they are Alison Ellacott on accordion and sharing keyboard duties with Judith Cooper who is otherwise occupied on fiddle, as is Jane Lloyd; Meg Winters adds to the string sound on guitar.

Although they have divided their workshop for advanced musicians in two, both parts are about playing for American contra dances. "Twiddly diddly" gives you a chance to get your fingers around some of the notey tunes that fit contras so beautifully and sound, well, twiddly diddly. "It don't mean a thing if it ain't got that swing" is probably self-explanatory.

Musicians who want to can put the theory into practice by joining Alterations at Langney to play for a workshop on New England dances with Joe Hodgson on Monday morning.

This is **Andrew Shaw's** second year in a row at Eastbourne, and as the usual rule is two and out, enjoy him while you can. Hailing from Manchester, his workshops tend towards the elegant in dance. This year, he offers a selection from "24 New Country Dances for the Year

1710, Compos'd by Mr. Kynaston" and published by John Walsh, the name by which the dances are usually known.

"Dutch Comfort" is a selection of dances from Pat Shaw's "New Wine in Old Bottles", to include one five-star dance (officially described as "Thank God it's no worse"). "Fried's back" is another selection from the many compositions of Fried de Metz Herman, who will shortly be in the UK on another tour. Finally Andrew offers us some dances to the music from John Gay's *The Beggar's Opera*.

On Saturday night Andrew is presenting a very special dance in the main hall. Called "An Eighteenth

Century Assembly: in the footsteps of Elizabeth and Darcy" it is an evening of dances published during Jane Austen's lifetime (1775 - 1817).

**Bill and Barbara Kinsman** have both been folk dancing since about 1950 as youngsters, and Bill has been Morris dancing with Jockey since 1952. They became involved in display dancing at the Birmingham Folk Festivals and continued with Contra, appearing around the UK and several festivals overseas. Barbara took over the Birmingham Playford Group nearly thirty years ago, and both are regular teachers at festivals and weekend

## SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES

Main hall - a bit of everything,  
with **Andrew** and **The Rampions**  
8:40 ..... Odds & Clogs  
9:05 - 9:25 ..... Interval  
10:00 ..... Kettle Bridge Clogs

Langney - Playford, with  
**Barbara** and **Wild Thyme**  
9:00 ..... Kevin  
9:15 - 9:35 ..... Interval  
10:20 ..... Sundsvalls Folkdansgille

Gym - International, with  
**Helen** and **Cloudburst**  
8:20 ..... Sundsvalls Folkdansgille  
9:20 - 9:40 ..... Interval  
9:40 ..... Gabhru Punjab De

Community Centre - American,  
with **Joe** and **Alterations**  
9:00 ..... Gabhru Punjab De  
9:30 - 9:50 ..... Interval  
10:20 ..... Jane

Saturday night dances have the same interval times, but no display spots.

courses. Their programmes tend to range from lively American to the more elegant Playford style.

We are only letting them call together once, at a Friday night welcome dance. After that, they are certainly earning their keep. Bill's workshops include "Reels, Heys and Figures of Eight", a selection of country dances featuring the various forms of the figure. "Celtic Fringe" will be mainly Welsh and Manx, with maybe the odd Cornish or Hebridean dance thrown in.

"Dances From the Villages" is a selection of good old fashioned traditional country dances. Bill is also running a longsword workshop: tradition not yet decided, but certainly from the north of England.



Frans Tromp and Elsche Korf

Barbara's contribution includes "A Feast of Maggots", dances with either Maggot in the title or from the 1930s collection Maggot Pie. In "Back to Cecil Sharp" we turn back to the four books researched by Sharp from Playford's The English Dancing Master and published in the early years of this century.

Tom Cook the elegant dancing master from the Wirral has researched extensively as well as composing dances in the eighteenth century style, and Barbara's workshop will explore both. Finally, she offers a selection from Ken Sheffield's seven books of dances "From Two Barns".

**Bob Archer** thought he was coming to Eastbourne to play for Odds & Clogs but the festival organisers never like to leave our participants with any free time if they can help it, and having Bob around seemed too good an opportunity to miss. So, he has been pressed into service to run not only a Friday night dance but also a couple of workshops.

Bob puts the emphasis on work in his workshop on "Dancing with the music". He will be exploring the relationship between music and dance, and finding out why some tunes work for some dances but not for others: no musical experience - other than a willingness

to listen - required. "Difficult dances, strange formations" says it all really: a chance to try out some of the more unusual and tricky dances around.

Considering the length of time that they have been in existence, the **Boys of Oakhill** have had an astonishingly stable line-up, with only one major change in personnel since its formation at and around Shrewsbury Folk Club in 1972. Their only concern now is how long they can go on calling themselves "boys"!

Jo Dunn on accordion attempts to keep control of Graham Higson (guitar), Ami Heywood (banjo and fiddle) and Kevin Mercer (fiddle and

mandolin). As well as being worked very hard in dances and dance workshops, they are also running a discussion workshop on the practical aspects of PA for country dance bands, looking at the selection of amplifiers and speakers, the pros and cons of pickups versus microphones, electronic aids, foldback and all the other things that have to be sorted before you can start to play. Come along and pick the brains of a band who have been doing it a long time.

Some dance crazes come and go (can anyone, even now, do the Macarena?); some come and stay. It certainly seems that there is little waning in the popularity for line dancing, and so we



Cloudburst

have added it to the programme. **Cheryl Poulter**, one of the best local teachers will be running a double session on Sunday. Do not worry if you have never tried it before: you will very quickly find the style and fun of it.



**Dampier's Round**

One of Cheryl's triumphs is the display group **Cherokee Country**, which - between this programme going to press and the festival - will have competed in the national semi-finals of the British Line Dancing Championships. Based down the road in Saltdean, they are joining us for the public events and the Saturday night concert.

**Cloudburst** is very much a regular at the festival. A very flexible band, they provide much of the live music for our international dances and workshops. More of a small orchestra than a band, this year they are Hazel Glass, Wendy Harrup and Karen Ackroyd all on fiddles; Karen also plays woodwind, as does Naomi Beaufort, Jill Bransby on guitar, Dave Rutherford on percussion and Elinor Compton on bass; all under the leadership of Martin Butler on accordion.

They also offer two workshops for musicians keen to learn more about playing for international dancing. The slot before lunch on Monday also sees our now-traditional and very popular international song session.

The last time that Alterations visited Eastbourne we got into trouble for describing Ali Ellacott in the programme as Mrs. Colin Messer. So: here primarily in his role as part-time baby-sitter, **Colin Messer**, better known as Mr. Ali Ellacott, is taking time out to run a couple of workshops for us, on the dances of Ted Senella and Pat Shaw.

Colin is also a stalwart of Westminster Morris, one of the country's finest traditional sides, so he was the natural choice to run a

Morris sampler workshop on Monday morning. He says he will be looking at the Longborough tradition in Westminster style.

**Dampier's Round** made its first appearance at Eastbourne, they recall, around nine years ago when Moira and Peter volunteered to stand in for Bill Kinsman's record player. Although they play very fine music, their chief distinction in many people's minds is that, although a duo, they tend to play three instruments at once. You have to see it.

According to Moira and Peter, they "enjoy playing most types of music. To prove it, we are running a workshop

on Colin Hume tunes while he is out of the country. Colin told us to say that when we asked him."

Regular visitors to Eastbourne, although not for a few years, are **Elsche Korf** and **Frans Tromp** from the Netherlands. Elsche has been teaching folk dance for almost 25 years now; Frans is her regular musician, on melodeon and accordion.

Although Elsche is an expert on dances from all over the Continent, not unreasonably we have asked her to concentrate on her native Holland. Frans, too, has a specialist workshop, entitled How to learn to play for dancing.

## LANGNEY AND COMMUNITY CENTRE

**To walk to Langney**, go out of the main entrance of Bishop Bell School: you will see a gate towards the right. Go through the gate and turn left. Follow the road (Keymer Close) around to the right. Turn left at Marsden Road, then first left again (Redford Close) into Langney School. Follow the arrows around the building to the main entrance.

**To walk to the Community Centre**, go first to Langney. Go into the school yard and follow the signs around the building, but rather than go inside, turn away from the entrance. You will see another set of gates: go out through these and walk along Chailey Close. Facing you will be a parade of shops: the Community Centre is at the far left end as you look at it.



# PROGRAMME OF WORKSHOPS AND DANCES

2 - 5 MAY 1997

	10:00 - 11:20	11:45 - 1:05	2:15 - 3:35	4:00 - 5:20
SATURDAY	<b>Main hall</b> Walsh 1710 <b>Andrew and Dampier's Round</b>	Reels, keys and figures of eight <b>Bill and Dampier's Round</b>	A feast of maggots <b>Barbara and Alterations</b>	New England dances <b>Joe and Alterations</b>
	<b>Langney</b> Running set <b>Hugh and The Rampions</b>	CDMs <b>Joe and The Rampions</b>	Dancing with the music <b>Bob and Boys of Oakhill</b>	Dutch comfort <b>Andrew and Boys of Oakhill</b>
	<b>Gym</b> Bhangra <b>Gabhru Punjab De</b>	Dutch <b>Elsche</b>	Israeli <b>Judy</b>	International <b>Helen and friends</b>
	<b>Room 9</b> Salsa <b>Linda</b>	Ted Senella <b>Colin and Wild Thyme</b>	Pat Show <b>Colin and Wild Thyme</b>	American novelties <b>Jill &amp; Cloudburst</b>
	<b>Room 10</b> Clog (beginners) <b>Odds &amp; Clogs</b>	Clog (improvers) <b>Odds &amp; Clogs</b>	Celtic Fringe <b>Bill and Green Willow</b>	Salsa <b>Linda</b>
	<b>Canteen</b> Meet the team <b>Sundsvalls</b>		Renaissance dance <b>Farandole</b>	Renaissance dance <b>Farandole</b>
	<b>Room 15</b> Music from Two Barns <b>Wild Thyme</b>	American music <b>Green Willow</b>	Renaissance dance <b>Farandole</b>	Beginners' music <b>Green Willow</b>
	<b>Room 17</b>		international music <b>Jill &amp; Cloudburst</b>	
	<b>Main hall</b> Back to Cecil Sharp <b>Barbara and Boys of Oakhill</b>	Contras from 1760 on <b>Joe and Boys of Oakhill</b>	Fried's back <b>Andrew and The Rampions</b>	Difficult dances, strange formations <b>Bob and The Rampions</b>
	<b>Langney</b> Running set <b>Hugh and Wild Thyme</b>	The Beggar's Opera <b>Andrew and Wild Thyme</b>	Old favourites <b>Joe and Dampier's Round</b>	Tom Cook <b>Barbara and Dampier's Round</b>
<b>Gym</b> Israeli <b>Judy</b>	Swedish <b>Sundsvalls Folkdansgille</b>	Dutch <b>Elsche</b>	Bhangra <b>Gabhru Punjab De</b>	
<b>Room 9</b> Scottish <b>Linda and Green Willow</b>	Scottish <b>Linda and Green Willow</b>	Renaissance dance <b>Farandole</b>	Ladies' ritual <b>Kettle Bridge Clogs</b>	
<b>Room 10</b> Clog (beginners) <b>Odds &amp; Clogs</b>	Clog (improvers) <b>Odds &amp; Clogs</b>	Appalachian <b>Kevin &amp; Boys of Oakhill</b>	Longsword <b>Bill and Green Willow</b>	
<b>Canteen</b> Meet the team <b>Gabhru Punjab De</b>		Line dancing <b>Cheryl</b>	Line dancing <b>Cheryl</b>	
<b>Room 15</b> Twiddly diddy <b>Alterations</b>	It don't mean a thing... <b>Alterations</b>	Beginners' music <b>Green Willow</b>	PA for bands <b>Boys of Oakhill</b>	
<b>Room 17</b> Playing for dancing <b>Frans</b>	Playing for dancing <b>Frans</b>	International music <b>Jill &amp; Cloudburst</b>		
SUNDAY	<b>Main hall</b> Dances from the villages <b>Bill and Wild Thyme</b>	From Two Barns <b>Barbara and Wild Thyme</b>	<b>FAREWELL TEA DANCE</b> with the weekend's musicians and callers in the main hall, 2:15 - 4:00  <b>FAREWELL INTERNATIONAL PARTY</b> with workshop reminders, in the gym from 2:15 to 3:30	
	<b>Langney</b> Running set <b>Hugh and Dampier's Round</b>	New England dances <b>Joe and Alterations</b>		
	<b>Gym</b> Swedish <b>Sundsvalls Folkdansgille</b>	Israeli <b>Judy</b>		
	<b>Room 9</b> Morris <b>Colin and Cloudburst</b>	Renaissance dance <b>Farandole</b>		
	<b>Room 10</b> Clog (beginners) <b>Odds &amp; Clogs</b>	Clog (improvers) <b>Odds &amp; Clogs</b>		
	<b>Canteen</b> Meet the team <b>Kettle Bridge Clogs</b>			
<b>Room 15</b> Renaissance music <b>Farandole</b>	Colin Hume tunes <b>Dampier's Round</b>			
<b>Room 17</b>	International songs <b>Jill &amp; Cloudburst</b>			

WELCOME TO EASTBOURNE!

Main hall:  
7:30 - 10:30  
**Bill & Barbara and Boys of Oakhill**

Langney School:  
8:00 - 10:30  
**Bob and The Rampions**

Gym:  
7:30 - 10:30  
International sampler with **Hugh Wood**

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**SATURDAY NIGHT DANCES (8:00 - 11:00)**

Main hall:  
18th Century Assembly -  
**Andrew and Alterations**

Langney School:  
American - **Joe and Boys of Oakhill**

Gym:  
International costume evening  
- **Jill and Cloudburst**

Community Centre:  
General - **Bill and Dampier's Round**

Canteen: Concert Showcase

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**SUNDAY NIGHT DANCES (8:00 - 11:00)**

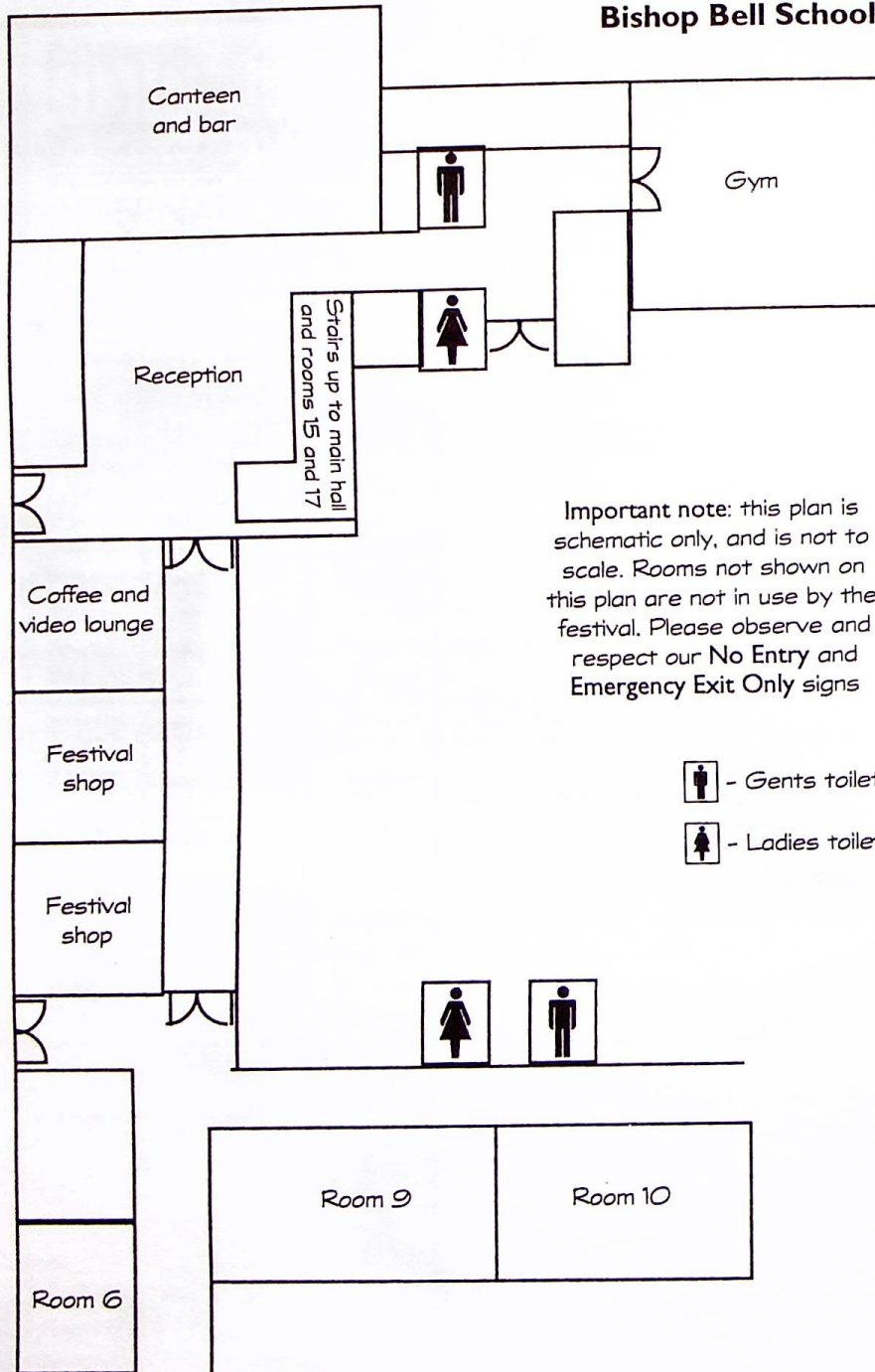
Main hall:  
General - **Andrew and The Rampions**

Langney School:  
Playford - **Barbara and Wild Thyme**

Gym:  
International - **Helen and Cloudburst**

Community Centre:  
American - **Joe and Alterations**

## Bishop Bell School



Important note: this plan is schematic only, and is not to scale. Rooms not shown on this plan are not in use by the festival. Please observe and respect our No Entry and Emergency Exit Only signs

-  - Gents toilet
-  - Ladies toilet

It is perhaps an obvious point but the dances of the seventeenth century - as recorded by Mr. Playford - were but a development of the dances of the sixteenth century. That repertoire is the specialisation of **Farandole**, and we are delighted to welcome them to Eastbourne to teach us the likes of *The Nine Muses*, *The Galliard*, *The Contrapasso Nuovo*, and *Branle de la Hey*.

As well as learning the dances, musicians will have a chance to work with *Farandole*, too. It is definitely not court music but popular, raucous and with lots of improvisation and embellishment. *Farandole*, led by Ruth and Mark Goodman, are guaranteed to give you a lively introduction to the Renaissance.

And now for something completely different. **Gabhru Punjab De** - Youth of Punjab - brings us *Bhangra*, the

traditional dance of the Punjab in northern India. The dance originates in the farming community, and was traditionally performed in celebration of the ripening of the wheat crop and the coming of the harvest season known as *Vaisakh*, the Sikh new year.

Music comes from the *dhol*, a large, two-headed barrel drum, the *tumbi*, a single-stringed plucked instrument, the *chimtra*, a metallic percussion instrument and the *alghoze*, two flutes played as a pair by one musician. Costumes are brightly coloured and intricately designed.

They say that "no other dance can come anywhere near *Bhangra* in sheer force and tempo - it is a dance of stamina and the *Gabhru*s take special delight in performing it." Do not let that put you off, though: the team promises to make its workshops fun. You should not miss the meet the team session

## PLEASE WEAR YOUR BADGES!

Once more our season and day tickets are in the form of attractive and highly collectible badges. Please put your name on yours, and wear it with pride! Seriously, our stewards may not know everyone at the festival by sight, so your badge is the only way to get in to any event.

Should the unthinkable happen and you lose or forget your badge, talk very, very nicely indeed to the people on reception, and be prepared to make a donation to festival funds for a replacement.

on Saturday morning, either, to find out much more about the culture that has brought us this wonderful dance form.

**Green Willow** may be a new name but many of the faces will be familiar. The band was formed in 1995, when John Heslop left Cambridge (and the Cherry Hinton Band and Fen Edge) to move down here to marry Anne Clark, the fiddler with Sussex Weavers. They were joined by Anne Albon, also on violin, and for this year's festival they have recruited Alan Corkett to play piano.

For the session on American music Green Willow will concentrate on music for contras, listening first to

American bands to analyse and put into practice the way they handle the simple material to produce distinctive and lively dance music. Green Willow is also running two workshops for musicians starting out on the road of playing for dancing, and will cover the main objectives of the English country dance band.

**Helen Ezra** sits on the festival committee to look after international dance matters, so it is above and beyond the call of duty to take on an afternoon workshop and evening dance as well. Helen first tasted international dancing at an evening class about 19 years ago and, like so many of us, just got hooked.



**Kettle Bridge Clogs**

As well as the festival committee, Helen sits on a number of SIFD bodies, but still finds time to travel to other events to learn new dances. For her workshop Helen intends teaching dances she has gathered at the great festival in Billingham over the last couple of years.

**Hugh Stewart** ran the running set last year, and he was so good at it we have asked him back again. Last year it was definitely EFDSS-style, so this year Hugh plans to have a more American flavour, although he concedes that there is not much difference.



**Hugh Stewart**

If you have not tried it, then running set is a traditional American dance form which was a precursor to the square dance. While it is quite brisk, and can go on for ages, despite its name it does not involve anything

faster than a walk step. As ever, the running set workshops are cumulative: each workshop builds on what was achieved in the previous one, so you should plan to be at Langney in plenty of time on Saturday morning.



**Green Willow**

**Hugh Wood** has been a member of the SIFD for many years, and was one of the original members of the Merton Park International Folk Dancers, formed over 25 years ago. He has taken part in many dance demonstrations and run social dances over the years, and this year will run our international welcome event on Friday night. As well as easing you gently into the weekend and giving you a chance to say hello to old friends, it will give you a sample of what to expect during the festival.

We have already noted that we hate to see someone doing one job when they could be doing two. **Jane Lloyd** is not just a very fine violinist but a wonderful step dancer, too. She has recently helped in the production of the latest book by her mother, Joan Flett, and is probably unique in step dancing to her own violin playing. We hope to prise her away from her duties with *Alterations* to give a demonstration or two.



**Farandole**

**Jill Bransby** has been "dancing with the world" for 30 years. She teaches international folk dancing and is well known for her enthusiasm and energy.

As well as being a popular caller she also plays guitar and banjo with Cloudburst, and will be leading their musicians' workshops and the song session.

On Saturday night Jill will run the international dance which she describes as "user friendly" - not aimed at beginners, but with some calling and walking through. If you have a costume with you, this is your chance to wear it. Jill also slips in a workshop on Saturday afternoon called "American novelties": fun dances like Salty Dog Rag, Stepping Out, 12th Street Rag and Maple Leaf Rag

It has been no secret that we have been trying to persuade **Joe Hodgson** to come back to Eastbourne for a very long time, and are delighted that we have finally achieved it. Joe is from the Midlands and has been calling for nearly 30 years. He has worked at most of the major festivals and is best known for his love of New England style contras and squares and his sense of humour.

Recently he has rekindled an interest in the dances from the CDMs and will be running a festival workshop on them, as well a good dose of squares and contras. We are delighted to welcome him back after an absence

of fully nine years. He has called one of his workshops *Old Favourites*: Joe certainly is.

**Judy Ingram** is a festival favourite, and we welcome her back again in 1997 to handle our programme of Israeli dance workshops.

**Kettle Bridge Clogs** are based in Maidstone, taking their name from an ancient wooden bridge which crosses the Medway at Barming. The group specialises in dancing the Morris of the north-west of England, where it was customary for teams of women

## SHE SAID YES!

If you were with us at the final tea dance last year, you will certainly remember the speeches being greatly enlivened when chief steward Richard Wright

proposed to committee secretary Judy Garner as was. Only about four people in the world knew it was going to happen, and Judy most certainly was not one of them!



Judy maintained a discreet silence about her feelings at the time, but you will all be pleased to hear that she did say yes, and Judy and Richard were married in the snow on 4 January this year. The picture shows Father Simon Everson, Chaplain of Hurstpierpoint College (where both Judy and Richard now work) blessing the union in St. Cosmas & St. Damian, Keymer.

The blessing was followed by a splendid reception with dancing, some very fine singing, good food, good ale and good company. Our very best wishes to the new Mr & Mrs. Wright.

and girls to dance in procession through the street wearing their usual footwear - clogs.

Kettle Bridge's repertoire is drawn from Lancashire and Cheshire, and you have the chance to learn some of this wonderful material, and particularly their interpretation of Keswick, a derivative of the Maudsley dance. While clogs certainly help you should not miss their workshops for lack of the right footwear. If you have never danced north-west Morris you should certainly try it.

If this year's festival has a theme it is undoubtedly multi-tasking performers. When we read the list of musicians in *Boys of Oakhill* we did a double-take at the name **Kevin Mercer**. Could there be two Kevin Mercers, or is the violinist also the exceptionally talented Appalachian step dancer?



**Jill Bransby**

Yes it is the same Kevin Mercer, and we certainly were not going to let the chance pass us by. So we have persuaded him to put on his dancing shoes on Sunday night, and also to run one Appalachian workshop that afternoon.



**Barbara & Bill Kinsman**

Each year we invite back **Linda Moon** because there are not many teachers who communicate so vividly their sheer love of dance. What you may not realise is that, in the real world, Linda's job takes her around the world - and certainly away from her home in Buxton - for much of the time. The result is that all programme planning is done with her answering machine, and the following is the text of a letter with the return address Heathrow Terminal 3:

"Linda is embarrassed about leading Scottish dance workshops because she is not an expert but - together with Appalachian - it is her favourite dance style. She feels it is a shame that many English/American/International dancers do not dare to

try Scottish because it has - mainly in other dance circles - a rather off-putting image. Linda wants to give dancers who don't normally 'dare' to try Scottish the opportunity to discover what an exhilarating style it is."

## JUDY'S MR. WRIGHT

A dance composed for **Judy and Richard Wright** by Jan & Dick Hobbs, and first danced at their wedding reception on 4 January 1997

Formation: four couple longways, with second and fourth couples improper. Dance four times through to get back to original places.

Music: any 32 bar American style reel

A1: Second couple lead up and third couple lead down while ones and fours cast around them into double figures of eight at each end. Second and third ladies cross left shoulders in the centre of the set and clap, then the second and third men cross right shoulders and clap, leading into...

A2: Double figures of eight at the other ends. Cross and clap as before so all end back in original positions.

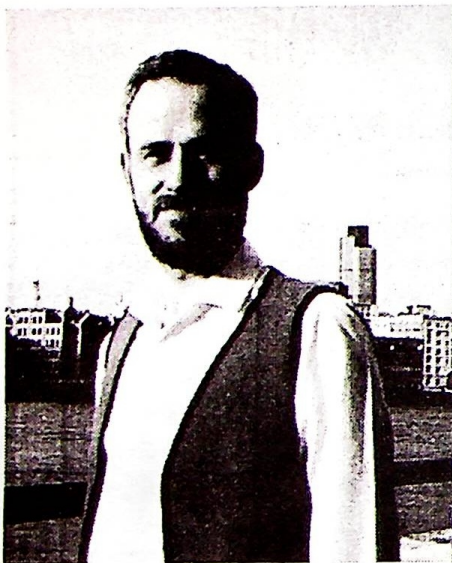
B1: All join hands and open out into a circle. Men go in and, without dropping any hands, turn about 45° clockwise. All raise arms and men back out, ducking under both arches into the progressed position. With arms still knotted, balance the circle in and out.

B2: Drop hands and grand chain until all the ladies are back in their original positions and men are progressed 2,4,1,3.

When Richard proposed to Judy he improvised a ring by making a Turk's Head out of a length of electrical wire. The knot in B1 - based on a figure by Bill Litchman of Albuquerque - is a tribute to that moment.



Linda also always brings us something exotic, and this year she has turned her dance appetite to Salsa. This is a Latin American couple dance style, fast taking over from Cajun in popularity in Britain. Try the steamy sensation in Eastbourne.



**Colin Messer**

**Odds & Clogs** have a unique way of presenting dance. Ray and Dawn Dawson have been dancing together for 13 years now, and are known for presenting traditional clog dancing steps in a novel and entertaining way, often involving elements of comedy, drama and even pantomime - taking tradition one step further, they call it.

The partnership commenced when Dawn, a fresh-faced student at Nottingham University, joined the folk dance society and was offered some private clog lessons by the teacher - Ray - as he felt this young dancer merited a little attention. The private lessons were a success...and the clog dancing improved too!

Although Ray and Dawn have strictly speaking retired to concentrate on Matthew (5) and Alex (2), we have persuaded them to come back to Eastbourne, along with Bob Archer and Rachel Taylor as musicians. They will be running workshops for both beginners and improvers each day.



**Hugh Wood**

Gill and Martin Howell and their band **The Rampions** are the local musicians, and staunch long-term supporters of the festival. Gill, a keen horticulturist, also provides the bower and floral decorations for the May Queen ceremony.

Travelling to us direct from the region of Medelpad in the centre of Sweden is **Sundsvalls Folkdansgille**, and we are delighted they have made the long journey just to be with us for our festival. Their meet the team session is first thing on Saturday morning so that we waste no time in finding out about their music, dance and costume.

There are probably very few countries which have such varied "music dialects" as Sweden - the same song may vary between two villages no more than 10km apart. Medelpad is a province where folk music and inherited rustic culture has been preserved and passed on through the generations. Sundsvalls Folkdansgille is highly respected, having taken part in festivals from Russia to Puerto Rico in recent years, and we are certain to enjoy their contribution to Eastbourne.

Last but certainly not least, it would not be an Eastbourne festival without **WildThyme**. Keeping up the tradition are John, Elvyn, Julia, Shane and Tina,

and we are guaranteed good music and good humour. They also offer the chance for other musicians to work with them, in a workshop on some of the music from the "From Two Barns" collection.



**Helen Ezra**

# YOUR VIEWS COUNT

If you were with us last year, you may remember that we asked you to fill out a questionnaire. We run these surveys every few years, because we want to make sure we really are providing what people want from the festival.

For those many of you who did take the time to fill in the form, many thanks indeed. Be assured that the committee read every single one, and every comment has been noted.

That is not to say that we can act on every one. There were some criticisms of our principal venue, Bishop Bell School. While we agree it is far from perfect - more large rooms would be wonderful - it is the best that is available in the area, taking into account all of our requirements. The authorities at Bishop Bell School are extraordinarily supportive of the festival, and without their help it would be a very much less smooth-running event.

Neither is it really practical for us to expand into many more venues. Apart from the attraction of keeping everything close (and it is all within walking distance this year), more venues demand more staffing:

stewards to open up, supervise and check after the event. Absolutely everyone who works for the festival does it for the love of it, and unless you know of a source of many more volunteer stewards, we simply do not have the resources for more locations.

On the other hand, overcrowding is a worry for many of you. That is not surprising: there is no point in our putting on an excellent programme of dances and workshops if it is too crowded for you to get maximum enjoyment. Last year we took the difficult decision to limit numbers, which led to people being turned away, even at the door. That is not easy: we hated disappointing people. For 1997, we have tightened the limits even more, which we hope will help.

Most of the statistics we glean from the survey are to help us plan the balance of events for future festivals. However, we could not resist asking you what you think of the festival, and either you are very polite or we are getting it pretty close to right.

Asked to rate the festival overall, 39% said it was good and a further 54% said excellent. 31% thought Eastbourne was good value for money,

another 62% thought it excellent. And the most rewarding statistic of all is that you keep coming back:: for 42% of the respondents last year it was their fifth or more visit to the festival.

Once again, our grateful thanks go to all who responded last year. If your suggestions have not been immediately acted upon, they have at least been actively considered, and every single response helps us plan a better Eastbourne festival.

We are not running a formal survey this year - you come here to dance, not to fill in forms. That said, we still

want to know what you think about our festival. In particular, if this is your first time at Eastbourne, how did you hear about the festival? What made you choose to come?

There is a suggestions box in reception at Bishop Bell, and we are open to your ideas on everything from callers and bands for the future to a solution to the lunch queue.

But above all, if you have something you want to get off your chest - comment, complaint or suggestion - don't bottle it up: tell a committee member!

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## LOCAL GROUPS

Teams from East Sussex taking part in the town centre events, the May Queen ceremony and our informal concert showcase include:

**Daisy Roots**, a ladies' morris side from Hastings, adding their own very energetic style to traditional dances.

**Hawkes Farm County Primary School** in Hailsham has a long-established folk dance club with children as young as 8. As well as the country dances they will be performing for the public, they also learn morris, rapper and long sword.

**Long Man Morris** is the Eastbourne morris side, taking its name from the chalk figure above Wilmington a mile or two outside the town. As well as dancing its members provide much of the organisation and stewarding for our public events, for which the festival is extremely grateful.

**Old Star** performs a mixture of Welsh Border dances (involving much shouting and clashing of sticks) and Lancashire long sword dances. As with Long Man, their enthusiasm has attracted many new young converts to dancing.

**Ragged Rapper** was originally formed as part of Eastbourne Folk Dance Club about six years ago, to specialise

in the rapper, the fast and furious dance from the north-east using flexible metal blades.

**The Sabotiers** was formed twelve years ago as an offshoot of the Bexhill Folk Dance Group. It specialises in choreographed presentations of traditional English step dancing.

**Shinewater County Primary School** in Langney performs for us the maypole dance, although they have a widely recognised reputation for a whole range of dance styles, from tribal African to rock musicals.

**Tapsall Catch** is a traditional song group from Eastbourne, and will once again be singing at the informal concert on Saturday night.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The festival could not take place without the assistance and efforts of a large number of people, including:

- the committee, the performer hosts and all the volunteer helpers in catering, the shop and stewarding
- Eastbourne Borough Council for its financial support
- Buckman & Hayward Limited for loaning one of their vehicles for transporting equipment

- the management of The Terminus, which provides power for amplification for the town centre events
- Eastbourne Community Transport for minibuses
- Long Man Morris and the local display groups for entertaining the public
- Bishop Bell and Langney Schools for their continued help and active support of the festival: without these venues we could not continue.

The Eastbourne International Folk Festival always needs more stewards: if you feel you could help maintain this great tradition, please talk to chief steward Richard Wright.

## MANY THANKS

Last year some of you sponsored Luke and Paprika the llamas on their sponsored walk in aid of research into leukaemia. Despite particularly unpleasant weather they thoroughly enjoyed their walk around the Surrey Downs in the company of other like-minded llamas. Luke and Paprika also took their friends Jan and Dick Hobbs along for the walk, even though they did little but complain.

This event was just one part of the fund-raising activities of Michael Bassett, himself both a leukaemia sufferer and a llama owner. During the course of 1996 Michael and his animals raised well over £20,000 for charity.

## THE 23RD EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL

...will take place from Friday 1 May to Monday 4 May 1998.

The committee has already started work on next year's programme, and we hope you will all be back to enjoy it.

See you then!



The team in the bar before display .



Geoff and Claire who manned the S.I.F.D. and E.F.D.S.S. stalls all afternoon at the Town Hall .

The Swedish Dance Team at Eastbourne, 1997



Sundsvalls Folkdansgille.



Hambo.

Midsummer  
Night  
Festival  
Dance.



## Bhangra Dance Workshop



Gabhru Punjab De - Youth of Punjab.



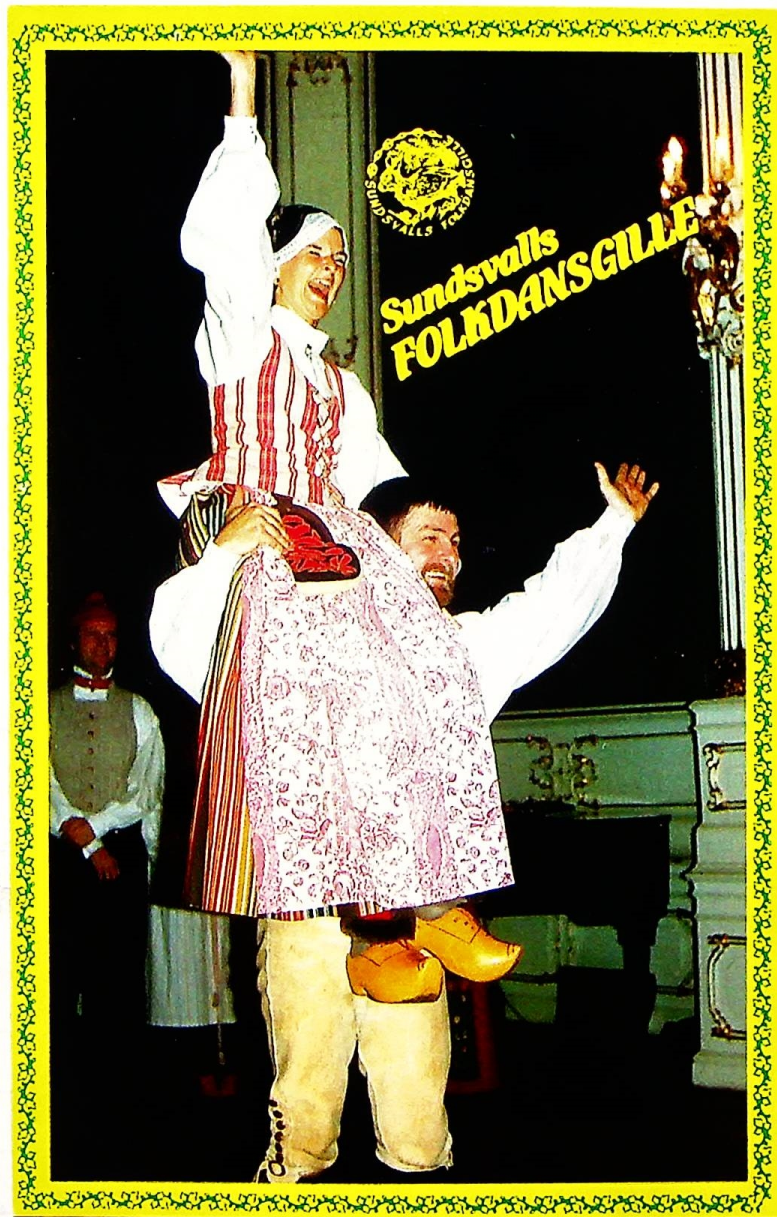
Spot the Rainmakers in this energetic class.

Pictures given by Jill.

EASTBOURNE INTERNATIONAL FOLK FESTIVAL 1997

May 2nd - 5th 1997

This was the Swedish group that came from the Baltic coast about 100 miles north of Stockholm. They did couple dances and set dances and gave two lovely workshops on dances such as: Snurvals, Altamannadans from Adeniel, Lårdan (Tobacco Roll), Snoc, Ätta man Engel (Finland), Långdens från Sollerön, Hambo, various schottisches.



Some of us also did 'Bangra' with the group from Birmingham 'Gabhru Punjab De' - quite an experience - great fun but exhausting!

I was very busy with 'Cloudburst' as you will see from the programme, generally contributing to the 'gaitry, song + dance' at Eastbourne

Jim Brandy.



Mexican Waltz: - A joining-in dance for Rainmakers and the residents of St. Andrews Retirement Home in Hitchin on May 10th 1997.





# RAINMAKERS

NEWSLETTER No. 15

May 1997

*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. Beginners are welcome!

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

## FUTURE EVENTS

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Tues. 17 <sup>th</sup> June 20.00 – 22.00hrs | <b>Workshop</b> at Ickleford village hall <i>All</i> members welcome |
| Tues. 1 <sup>st</sup> July 20.00 – 22.00hrs  | „ „ „ „ „  |
| Tues. 15 <sup>th</sup> July 20.00 – 22.00hrs | „ „ „ „ „  |
| Fri. 27 <sup>th</sup> June 20.00 – 22.00hrs  | <b>Workshop with Fiona Howarth</b>                                   |
| Fri. 25 <sup>th</sup> July 20.00 – 23.00hrs  | <b>End of Term Party</b> – please bring food or drink!               |
| August 1930 – 22.00hrs                       | <b>5 Volunteers</b> for Garden evenings wanted                       |
| Sun. 7 <sup>th</sup> Sept.                   | <b>Display</b> at Standalone farm for the Hospice                    |
| Sat. 13 <sup>th</sup> Sept.                  | <b>Display</b> at Pirton Old Peoples Home                            |
| Sat. 20 <sup>th</sup> Sept.                  | <b>Display, etc.</b> at Helen's Birthday party                       |
| Sat. 18 <sup>th</sup> Oct.                   | <b>Anniversary Dance</b>   |
| Sun. 7 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 19.00 – 22.00hrs   | <b>We are Hosts</b> at SIFD Dance                                    |
| Fri. 12 <sup>th</sup> Dec. 20.00 – 23.00hrs  | <b>Christmas Party</b> with music by Jacobs Ladder                   |

Dances at St Andrews on May 10<sup>th</sup>

Flora Hadera

Jesusita en Chihuahua

La Bonne de la Chapelle

Zener Aric

Salty Dog Rag

Ba Paddess

Neapolitan Tarantella

Steirerger

Parsons Farewell

Baileceto

Sandvaerind

Koenig Koenig

Jiana

Maria Tikii

John is Maria's French Dance.  
Mexican Waltz  
Valencia.

TO THE RAIN-MAKERS, FROM ST. ANDREWS HOUSE

MANY THANKS FOR YOUR  
DELIGHTFUL ENTERTAINMENT  
HOPE WE WILL BE SEEING  
YOU AGAIN, PLEASE ACCEPT  
THIS DONATION.

Marie Spragg, on behalf  
of staff and tenants.

Under the Roses.

From Victorian Children, 20 Gorgeous Colour Postcards ©Bloomsbury Books 1993



Makkil Tikki being danced by Rainmakers  
at St. Andrew's House.

Photographs from Isabel.

Tuesday, June 17th 1997.

Workshop at Ickleford.

12 members present + Jill.

Three workshops have been organised on Tuesdays this Summer to give members the opportunity of concentrated practise of a few dances. We were asked several weeks ago which dances we would like to learn again as it were "from scratch".

French dances were chosen for tonight's workshop.

Jill taught: -

La Bourrée des Jeunes.

La Bourrée Droite D'Issoudun

La Bourrée Droite du Pays Fort

Deux, Deux, Deux.

Quatre Pieds de Falaise à Puy.

Everyone present said that they had found the workshop very satisfying, helpful and most enjoyable.

Friday, June 27th 1997.  
Israeli Dancing.

Instead of our normal Friday club evening session Fiona Howarth (S.I.F.D. teacher from London) came to Letchworth to teach the Rainmakers Israeli dances. She was assisted by her "visual aid" to quote Fiona, Alan.

After a couple of dances well known to us she proceeded to teach three dances that had been requested by our chairman, Mark.

These were:—

Shiri li Kinneret

Sing to Galilee

Reiach Dudain

The Scent of Mandrake

Baa Menucha

Rest for the Weary

Fiona is acknowledged in the Society as an expert Israeli dancer. She also has a distinctive sense of humour. Her instructions to "lead with our personal right legs", "imagine we have a piece of knicker elastic fastened between our waists and heels" and clap to the rhythm "elephant's nightdress" caused a few laughs. The dances themselves are very enjoyable ones <sup>with</sup> beautiful musical accompaniments. They are likely to stay in the club's repertoire.

It was a very pleasant club event.

Milton Keynes International Festival.  
July 5th, 6th, 7th. 1997



Bahanga Dancers - India.



Soweto choir and dancers - South Africa



The Africans.

The committee that organises the Milton Keynes International Festival aims to make the local people aware of the pleasures to be gained from watching, listening and participating in international dance and song events. They put in an enormous amount of work in finding and hosting teams and choirs willing to take part.

This year the shows certainly had popular appeal. The Sunday night concert attended by four Rainmakers was packed to the doors.

We saw an interesting performance by Indian-Bhangara dancers; a fire eater who made us hold our breath and look for the emergency exits as it seemed highly likely that he would set the place alight; an excellent team of Basque dancers; a frenetic group of Appalachian clog and tap dancers (their performance was manic but many in the audience loved it) and a splendid team of singers and dancers from Africa.

The Basque dancers went on to the International Fistedfodd at <sup>Llangollen</sup> where they won the folk dancing competition on the following Wednesday. The choir from Soweto, the same one that sang at President Mandela's inauguration, thoroughly deserved the audience's rapturous applause for their very moving singing. They too, went on to Llangollen but did not win in the competition. The African dancers were charming. Their leader introduced us to people from several tribes before they performed traditional dances.

Workshops were only held in clogging this year and no Rainmakers have mentioned that they attended them.

Tuesday, July 1st.  
Israeli Workshop.

As a follow up to Fiona's class, Jill went over the new dances at Ickleford. Ten members plus Jill were present. It was very satisfactory to repeat them slowly, several times and by ten o'clock most of us felt that we had almost "got them under our belts".

The next workshop at Ickleford will be in a fortnight's time, July 15th, when Jill will revise Scandinavian dances such as Atta Man Engel. She hopes that more Rainmakers will attend.

Tuesday, July 15th.  
Scandinavian Workshop.

The last of the three workshops to be held at Ickleford this Summer was very poorly attended. Various reasons probably contributed to this i.e. very hot weather, holidays, other commitments. Jill had to change her planned programme to be suitable for five (later six) people. We were travelling back from Wales that evening so I was not present but I understand that Daldans was gone through very thoroughly and a simple couple dance, Varsoviennne, The Hambo was also taught and practised as Daldans concludes in this way.



Friday, July 25th 1997.  
End-of-Term Party.

On a very hot evening about twenty-four members donned the coolest costumes they possessed for the Rainmakers' end-of-term party.

Led by Jill, we danced a programme of twenty-nine requested dances. With a welcome break for refreshments we did not finish till much before eleven o'clock. A weary group wished each other "Happy Holidays". Some of us will be meeting at three Garden Evenings during August to be held as follows: -

- August 1st Belinda and Martin's home.
- August 15th Jill and Peter's home.
- August 22nd Sue and Adrian's home.

The new term will begin on Friday, September 5th.

Requests.

Friday, July 25th 1997.

End-of-Term Party.

Mora Femeilor

Tzadic Katamar

Shi hi Kinneret

Reiadi Dudaim

Lubbi Polka.

Mei Harmonica

Spritzer Achterim

Shoshanat Teiman (Rose of Yeman)

Sham A' Sheir

Jove Malo Mome

Yota Antigua

Sarabe Tapatio (Mexican flat dance)

Agi Halay

Maple Leaf Rag.

Jeri Jackson's Rag.

Little Man in a Fox

Mari Mariko

Paris Polka.

Daldans

Joc de Legane (Midwives' dance)

Yorkshire Square Eight.

Krzyzoc

Vrapcheto

Vlegent

Gott Met Stroop.

Tarantella Fasda.

Kotataki Ono.

Sunsat He' amal.

Karamfie.

## Garden Evenings.

Three Garden Evenings were held during the five week break. All were well attended.  
August 1st - at Belinda and Martin's home in Ickleford.

August 15th - at Jill and Peter's home in Hitchin.

August 22nd - at Sue and Adrian's home in Hitchin.

The weather was kind to us and we were able to be outdoors until at least nine o'clock. August 22nd was such a beautiful evening that we took our refreshments into the garden and sat and chatted until 10.30pm.

Very many thanks are due to our kind, generous hosts and hostesses.

Cards received during the year.

Provençal costumes. May 1996 from Jill + Peter.



TRADITIONS  
*Du Sud*



March 1996 .  
From Annie in  
Belize .

Garifuna dancers  
aping white men  
Morris dancing .



August 1997 .

Card from Norway  
given to the  
Scrapbook by  
Moya .

**Helsing frå HALLINGDAL**

