

RAINMAKERS'
SCRAPBOOK
VOLUME 16
1997—1998

Volume 16

The

Rainmakers' Scrapbook

From

September 1997

To

August 1998

Cover picture: - Padstow" Obby Oss" dances through this Cornish town on May 1st every year.

# Standalone Farm Demonstration. Sunday, September 7th 1997.

The North Herts Festival is a major fund raising event for the support of the Garden House Hospice, herchworth. A huge range of attractions to suit families were on offer at Standalone Farm, hetchworth from early morning until six o'clock in the evening.

A team of dancers from the Rainmakers gave two half-hour demonstrations in the main arena which was in a rather bumpy field the grass had been cut!) The first spot began at 12:30 p.m. and the second at 4.15 p.m. I was unable to be there but I am told that thousands of people came and went, raising a lot of money for the Hospice - £3000 profit I am told and more coming in. It was a long kining day for our group (especially Adrian and Graham who were two of the organisers of the festival) but they all felt it was worth it for such a good cause. The dancing went well and was appreciated by the onlookers.

The dancers were: - Coraham, Janet, Till, Maria, Adrian, Sue, Louise, Barbara, Martin, Belinda, Mark, Patti, Claire, Curle, Clive and Sheila.

Basque costumes were worn with showls and aprons for the women.

Several of these people dashed home afterwards and then went up to London in time for an S. I. F. D. dance at 7.00 p.m. What energy! Martin Butler was with Letchworth Morris men at the festival, plays in the S. I. F. D. Band, so he also had an exhausting day. Programme; — Neopolitan Tarantella. Sicillian Tarantella. Horlepiep Arku Dantzer Walenki Rav Brachot Makil Tikki

Martin Butler

# Making merry at the festival

Musica Nisheret.

Danza degli Ombrelli - Scottische



HAVING a hearty good time on Sunday were these merrymakers who call themselves Letchworth Morris Men.

They brought a touch of Old England to the hugely successful North Herts Festival staged at the garden city's Standalone Farm.

The cheerful chaps with a ready smile on their face and a spring in their step were among several attractions at the event which raised money for the Garden House Hospice.

No pictures of Rainmakers in the newspaper but here is Martin Butler.



This programme reached me five weeks later. You can see from it that "The Rainmakers Dance Troupe" was in good company. There was a huge vainety of acts and events from Dog Shows, Cymkhana to Classic Cars.

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**LETCHWORTH** CENTRE

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# WELCOME TO **OUR FESTIVAL!!!**

25 or 85 years old!

This is the second year that Horse and Dog Exemption Show, to provide what is now encouragement for this year!

Festival are to go directly to Garden House Hospice, which

WE HOPE that you will find open in 1990, and which we many things to interest and must keep open to meet the delight you, throughout the needs of those patients and day, whether you are 5 years, families in our community, requiring our particular care.

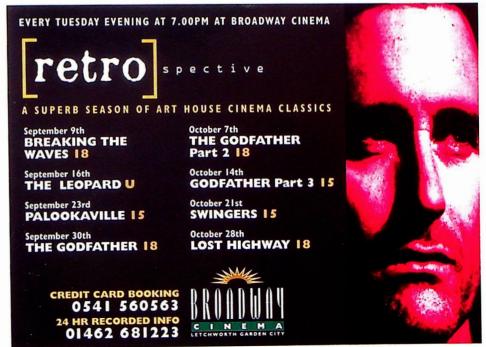
The palliative care service we have expanded on the offered at Garden House includes in-patient beds, Day Hospice and bereavement called the North Herts Festival. support. The Hospice is staffed The response from last year by a specialist team of doctors, certainly gave us much nurses, physiotherapists, aromatherapists and trained The proceeds from the volunteers. The whole team is aided greatly by trained volunteers. The aim is to give many wonderful members of the specialised care in an the local community helped to atmosphere which is friendly,



relaxed, homely, loving and supportive at all times.

So please, enjoy yourself even more in the knowledge that just by being here today, you are contributing to the future work of Garden House Hospice.

Thank you, Sheila Ball, Chairman of Trustees.



• calls charged at national rate • bookings subject to a booking fee



# LIVE ON STAGE TODAY



Today's
Better Music
Mix

### HORSE AND EXEMPTION DOG SHOW Sponsored by HANCOCK FORD, your local Ford dealer HORSE SHOW

Courtesy of LETCHWORTH, BALDOCK & DISTRICT RIDING CLUB (Tel: Mr P. Worsley, 01462 455298) RING 1 - SHOW JUMPING (start 9.30am)

Entry fees: £3 per class

Trophies by Hancock Ford for each Class Winner

Rosettes to 6th place

Class 1 Novice Pony 13.2 hh and under

Pony and rider combination, not been placed 1st or 2nd in any previous show jumping competition Jumps 2'-2'3"

Class 2 Novice Pony over 13 hh and under 14.2 hh Pony and rider combination, not been placed 1st or 2nd in any previous show jumping competition

Jumps 2'-2'3"

Class 3 Novice Horse over 14.2 hh

Pony and rider combination, not been placed 1st or 2nd in any previous show jumping competition

Open, ponies 13.2 hh or under. Riders any age. Jumps 2'3"-2'6" Class 4

Open, Ponies over 13.2 hh, but under 14.2 hh. Jumps 2'3"-2'6"

Open Horses over 14.2 hh. Jumps 2'6"-2'9"

Pony Scurry. 14.2 hh and under. Jumps at mixed heights up to 2'6". One fence may be 2'9"

Horse Scurry. Over 14.2 hh. Jumps at mixed heights up to 2'9". One fence may be 3'

\*Show jump heights will remain low if show ground is considered too hard for jumping

### RING 2 - WORKING HUNTER (starts 9.30am)

Entry fee: £3

Rosettes to 6th place

Class 9 Working Hunter

This class will be separated depending on entries. Seven fence course jumped at mixed heights.

"Patrick Upholstery" Challenge Shield

### RING 2 – GYMKHAHA (starts 12.30)

Entry fees: 75p per class

Gymkhana Trophy by Hancock Ford for overall winner

Rosettes to 6th place. Six races

Group A - 6 years and under, must be led

Group B - 6-9 years, may be led

Group C - 10-14 years, may be led

Group D - Over 14s

\*If necessary, the Gymkhana will be held up for the Fancy Dress

### RING 3 – SHOWING RING (starts 9.30am)

Entry fees: £3 per class. Rosettes to 6th place

Class 10 Best Condition in Hand

This class may be split into stable/part stable and grass kept, depending on entries

Class 11 (Wendy Worsley Memorial Shield)

Mountain & Moorland in Hand

This class may be split into large and small, depending on entries

Class 12 Family Horse or Pony. Rider any age

Class 13 Horse or Pony the judge would most like to take home

Class 14 \*Open Fancy Dress. Judged by VIP guests

\*If necessary the Gymkhana will be held up for the Fancy Dress

### RING 4 - PETER PAN CLEAR ROUND (starts 9.30am)

Entry fee: £1 per round

Rosettes for each clear round, kindly donated by Letchworth, Baldock & District Riding Club

Class 15 Peter Pan clear round jumping. Maximum height 15" May be led

Class 16 Clear round jumping at various heights

## **EXEMPTION DOG SHOW**

Courtesy of the WRAYFIELD DOG AGILITY CLUB

Sponsored by Hancock Ford

(Tel: Mrs D. Dilley, 01462 730300)

RING 5 - DOG EVENTS (start 11.00am)

Entry fees: Breed classes (1-4 inc) £2

Novely classes (5-10 inc) £1

Rosettes to 6th place Awards: Best in Show, classes 1-4

Reserve Best in Show, classes 1-4

Judge: Mrs Jean Burrowes

### PEDIGREE (does not have to be Kennel Club Registered)

Class 1 Puppy (6-12 months)

Class 2 Any variety - sporting

Class 3 Any variety - non-sporting

Class 4 Any variety - open

#### NOVELTY

Class 5 Best child dog-handler, 12 years and under

Class 6 Best 6 legs

Class 7 Best veteran, over 7 years

Class 8 Dog most like its owner

Class 9 Handsomest dog

Class 10 Prettiest bitch

Class 11 The waggiest tail Class 12 The animal the judge would like to take home

Agility display in the Main Arena, during the morning

Many thanks to John Boyle of Craftsman Luton for excellent trophies

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### MAIN ARENA ACTS

### **SPONSORS**

9.15-9.45	North Herts Sea Cadets		Hancock Ford
9.45-10.30	Wrayfield Dog Agility Club	Ctar	ling Diagnostics
10.30-11.00	Hitchin Majorettes	Sier	ung Diagnostics
11.00-12.00	Energy Unlimited		
11.20-11.50	Raqs Sharqi Dancers	~ 0 11'	
11.50-12.00	Opening by The High Sheriff of H	Herttordshire	
12.00-12.30	Dizzy & Dazzy – The Death Defy	ing Decorators	Maple Mobility
12.30-1.00	The Rainmakers Dance Troupe		
1.00-1.30	Hitchin Majorettes		ling Diagnostics
1.30-2.00	It's Him!! - Fire Eating Display		uman Resources ts Road Runners
2.00-2.30	Dizzy & Dazzy - The Death Defy	ing Decorators	Maple Mobility
2.30-3.00	American Line Dancers	The Blakem	ore Thistle Hotel
3.00-3.20	Energy Unlimited		
3.20-3.45	Rags Sharqi Dancers		
3.45-4.15	Dizzy & Dazzy – The Death Defy	ying Decorators	Maple Mobility
4.15-4.45	The Rainmakers Dance Troupe	/	
4.45-5.15	North Herts Sea Cadets		
5.15-5.30	Grand Finale		
3.13 3.30			



### **NON-ARENA EVENTS**

Grateful Thanks to all sponsors

### **EVENT**

### **SPONSORS**

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### **B97 ROADSHOW**

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Teddy Bear Parachute Jump

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Punch & Judy

Laings
Hitchin Band/Classic Cars

Du Pont Pharmaceuticals
Mr Crumble/Dotty the Dinosaur

Stevenage Arts & Leisure
Circus Workshop

NatWest Telecommunications (Staff)

Special Thanks to Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation –
Sponosrs of B97 Commercial

North Herts District Council Contract Services

### **FURTHER EXHIBITS**

Hancock Ford
Maple Mobility
Rescued Animals
NHDC Recycling Truck, Recycling
Information Unit
NHDC Animal Welfare and Health
Promotion
Swing Boats
James Harris Funfair
Bouncy Castle

Unrideable Bike
Have a go at Football, Darts and
Stocks
Rocking Horses (Main Building)
The Staplers Dance Troupe
(near Animal Sheds)
Letchworth Morris Men (Shopping
area)
Barrel Organ Entertainment
(Shopping area)

### **CATERERS**

The Organisers would like to thank the following for travelling so far to attend the event.

#### Also

American Plonkers – Jerry Rahlf Georges Tatties – Ray Davey Simply Donuts – Rod Thurman Mexican Fajitas – Ped Pacey German Sausages – Diane Mandy Fish & Chips – Barry & Rose Saunders Ice Cream – Antonio Baldassarre Lucy Kennealy Burgers (Horse Field)



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We are pleased to be associated with the Garden House Hospice and wish everyone a Happy Family Fun day.

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### **HOW CAN YOU HELP?**

GARDEN HOUSE offers its very special care and services free of charge to patients and their families. But did you know that we are a voluntary organisation, and our current contract with the local Health Authorities only covers about 50% of the Hospice running costs? This means the rest of the money needed has to come from all our various fund raising efforts.

How can you help? It's simple. Look at the options listed below. Choose the most suitable for you, fill in the form and post it without delay. We'll do the rest. Remember, your support helps someone in YOUR local community. Garden House is the ONLY Hospice serving people in the Stevenage and North Herts area, and it is available to everyone, with the patients' needs being the only criteria.

### OPTIONS: • Donation Make your cheque payable to "Garden House Hospice", fill in the form below so that we can record the donation in a proper and legal way and post to the Fund Raising Office now. • Membership Become a Member of the Hospice Association and support us on a regular basis. For only £10 annually you can receive priority copies of our Newsletter, Annual Report, notices about fund raising events and an invitation to the AGM, which carries full voting rights. Apply for a Tick here □ Membership Form now. • Covenant Choose to make a donation in a tax efficient way which allows us to claim back the tax if you are a basic rate tax payer, at no extra cost to you. Apply for a Covenant Form now. Tick here □ • Gift Aid If you can afford to make a single donation of not less than £250, then Gift Aid should be the preferred method for you. Apply for a Gift Aid form now. • Collecting Boxes Take one of our special collecting boxes either for your work premises or to keep at home. It's amazing how the small change can mount up and it's an important source of Hospice funds. Apply for a box now. Tick here □ • Volunteering Would you like to help the Hospice and make new friends too? Can you spare some time on a regular basis each week? Send for information on opportunities to help now. Tick the boxes that apply to you. Fill in the details below and post immediately to: Garden House Fund Raising Office, 16 Bancroft, Hitchin, Herts SG5 1JQ. (BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE) Post Code......Telephone....



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J. D. Parkins, **Austin Ruby**, 1937, hp/cc 7 hp 748 cc, Reg No CHO 998.

Mr L. H. Hughes, **Ford Popular 103A**, 1956, cc 1172, Reg No TSV 668. Mrs N. Julve, **Hillman Minx 111C,** 1962, cc 1600,
Reg No 3764 UR.

William Kapry, Morris Pick-Up, 1972, cc 1800, Reg No EVF 784K.

Mr J. Reason,
Bamford, 1929,
hp/cc ½ rpm 700,
engine number
CH56729.

John Edwins, Jensen Interceptor Mk1, 1968.

Frank Whayman, Morris Minor 1000, 1957, cc 948, Reg No 60 SAR.

Frank Whayman, Morris, 1936, cc/hp 948 cc, 8 hp.

John/Gillian Spaul, **Austin 7 Van,** 1935, cc 750, Reg No AVE 375.

John/Gillian Spaul, **Austin (Minor) Van,** 1968, cc 1098, Reg No JNM 624F.

Kenneth W. Stafford, **Bedford Coach**, 1976, cc 2500, Reg No OCN 65P. Kenneth Stafford, Hillman Minx, 1938, hp 10, Reg No 129 JGY.

Peter Hart, Singer Gazelle 111C Saloon, 1962, cc 1592, Reg No MFO 780.

Peter Hart, Singer – Super Ten Saloon, 1939, cc 1184, Reg No CMJ 307.

Mrs Margaret Scutt, Singer Chamois Mk2 Saloon, 1965, cc 875, Reg No DJT 927C.

S. M. Kitchen, **Triumph Herald 1200,** 1965, cc 1200, Reg No LNR 712C.

J. H. Brownhill, Morris 1000 Minor 8 CWT Vali, 1970, cc 1098, Reg No GYB 542.

George Davis,

Humber Car –

Sceptre Hank One,
1964.

Robin Crump, Austin A125 Sheerline, 1951.

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every success with their

Family Fun Day

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# **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Organisers wish to express their thanks to the following organisations and individuals whose help has been invaluable.

The High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Richard Walduck J.P. Councillor Ken Vale and Mrs Val, Mayor and Mayoress of Stevenage Chairman of NHDC, Councillor Lorna Kercher Carnival Princes and Princesses of Stevenage, Hitchin and Letchworth, Baldock

> David Marsh, Jean Avins and staff of Standalone Farm James Harris; Jim Barrett and Classic Car enthusiasts

Letchworth Lions

Letchworth Morris Men

Garden House Hospice Trading Company - Management and Staff

Arlesey Darts and Football Club

NHDC: St John Ambulance

North Herts Sea Cadets; Straw Dog (Band); Easy (Band)

The Rainmaker; Rags Sharqi Dancers

Hitchin Majorettes; American Line Dancers; Energy Unlimited

Wrayfield Dog Agility Club Pat Worsley (Horse Events)

Staff of NatWest Bank, Hitchin

Staff of NatWest Telecommunications

Stuart Small, Barbara Maetzker, Hilda Ward

Staff and Volunteers of Garden House Hospice Team;

Pat Currie and Kathryn Hares

AND EVERYONE ELSE WHO HELPED MAKE THIS EVENT POSSIBLE.

THANK YOU - ANDI DYASON, P.R. & EVENT CO-ORDINATOR.

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WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

Osbourne

WHERE PEOPLE MATTER

2811786/35/C



THE HOSPICE FOR STEVENAGE AND NORTH HERTS

Very many thanks to all of you that have attended the North Herts Festival today. As you know it is for a very worthy cause and every penny will go to Garden House Hospice.

I would personally like to thank the volunteers who assisted me in putting the event together. Also to the stewards and cashiers who have given freely of their time as well as the members of the steering committee.

It has been a brilliant team effort, and I hope that you the public have had a great

Andi Dyason, PR & Events Co-ordinator.

### **FANCY DRESS COMPETITION**

3.30pm in the Dog Arena

Registration essential: 11.00am - 2.30pm

# ZEUS GREEK RESTAURANT

# 4 COURSES £22.00

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Bookings now being taken
Please ring to confirm availability.
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Telephone 01462 893620

# Hospice day is roaring success

UPWARDS of 8,000 people descended on Standalone Farm, Letchworth, on Sunday to make the North Herts Festival a runaway success.

At one point in the afternoon the number of cars pouring into the site almost overwhelmed organisers.

They had to drop what they were doing and help clear the long line of vehicles queueing to get in.

The all-day event raised over £10,000 for the Garden House Hospice – double the amount realised last year.

"After the sad events of the

By JOHN ADAMS

week, I think people decided to come along and cheer themselves up," said the hospice's public relations and events co-ordinator Andi Dyason.

There was something for everybody – the thrills of a funfair, competition in horse and exemption dog shows, a circus workshop, classic cars, clowns, displays, craft stalls and many other attractions.

The festival was opened by the High Sheriff of Hertfordshire Richard Walduck along with celebrated actor Nigel Hawthorne who has long been a supporter of the hospice.

Prizes are awaiting four lucky winners of the raffle at the festival – but organisers have no way of contacting them.

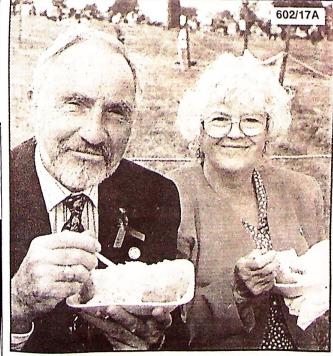
Someone called Hawes has won a microwave oven with white ticket 426; pink 638 in the name of Pearson has won a tea/coffee maker; Jenkins with green 19 can claim a radio cassette player and Northover with pink 70 has a teddy bear cushion. They should contact the hospice fund-raising office on Hitchin 442888.



Jodie Vallance aged two didn't duck out of meeting Angela Childs and Hoban the dog



Sophie, six, and eight-year-old Rachel Berry enjoy a swing boat ride



Actor Nigel Hawthorne and Sheila Ball take a break from their roles as president and chairman of the hospice board of trustees

# Saturday, September 20th 1997. Helen's Birthday Party.

55 Basils Road STEVENAGE Hertfordshire SG1 3PY 25 9 9

Dear Rain Makers.

A HUGE thank you for helping my 40th birthday party be such a joyful celebration.

You looked superb!
You danced superbly!
You are superb!
Special thanks to like Hork
and Roy for organising and
Leading.
Love and Sod Bless - Helen.

The Rainmakers were invited to dance, in costume, at the birthday party of Helen, a fairly new member, held in Springfield House, Stevenage. A happy time was had by all.

# ENGLISH/INTERNATIONAL BARNDANCE

An introduction to dances at Cecil Sharp House



All ability levels No need to bring a partner

Salurday, 27 Seplember 8:00 Yo 11:00 pm

Cecil Sharp House 2 Regents Park Road Camden NW1





Tickers: £4.50, £4.00 EFDSS/SIFD Members

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ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY

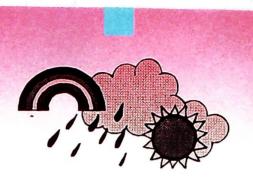
Registered charity number 305999

SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING



About a dozen Rainmakers went up to Cecil Sharp House to attend this dance arranged to attract new members. Sixty or so people were there, mostly S. I. F. D. members. It was an enjoyable evening and we hope that some new people have been brought in.

Saturday, October 18 th 1997. Rainmakers 21st Anniversary Dance.



# RAINMAKERS 21st ANNIVERSARY DANCE

Saturday 18th October 1997 7.00 pm - 11.00 pm

Ickleford Village Hall





It is hard to believe that from small beginnings in September 1976 the Rainmakers have "come of age". There was much reminiscing during the

# Saturday, October 18 th 1997. Rainmakers 21st Anniversary Dance.

76/77	Mayim Mayim Somogyi Karikazo Neapolitan Tarantella
77/78	Hava Nagila Swedish Schottische Serbian Suite
78/79	Walczyk (Little Waltz) Makazice
79/80	La Bourree Pastourelle Russian Lyrical
80/81	Horlepiep Ma Navu
81/82	Parisa Polska Hora de la Recipice
82/83	Renningen Galop Kontra
83/84	Trakijska Rucenitsa
84/85	Rondon La Bouree de la Chapelotte
85/86	Maiezyt
86/87	Haro'a Haketana Chotis de la Frontera

Year

Dance



The Caller
JILL BRANSBY



The Band CLOUDBURST



The Entertainers SONGSPLUS

Interval and Refreshments 8.45 pm

**Year Dance** 87/88 **Nikolos** 88/89 En Allant aux Chataignes Twelth Street Rag Musica Nisherat 89/90 Walenki Fadinho Tres Tempos Kulsko Hora 90/91 Untersteiner Landler 91/92 Rav Brachot Joc de Leagane 92/93 Le Branle a Six de la Chatre Mari Mariko 93/94 **Erev Shabat** L'Oferta 94/95 Tarantella 'Fasola' Bailecito Ograzdensko Horo 95/96 Tiedelie Pats 96/97 Waltz Cottillion Congo Agir Halay

91/92 Mombar

It is hard to believe that from small beginnings in September 1976 the Rainmakers have "come of age". There was much reminiscing during the

# Saturday, October 18 th 1997. Rainmakers 21st Anniversary Dance.

Year	<u>Dance</u>
76/7	7 Mayim Mayim Somogyi Karikazo Neapolitan Tarantella
77/78	Hava Nagila Swedish Schottische Serbian Suite
78/79	Walczyk (Little Waltz) Makazice
79/80	La Bourree Pastourelle Russian Lyrical
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81/82	Parisa Polska Hora de la Recipice
82/83	Renningen Galop Kontra
83/84	Trakijska Rucenitsa
84/85	Rondon La Bouree de la Chapelotte
85/86	Maiezyt
86/87	Haro'a Haketana Chotis de la Frontera

### Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group

Rainmakers was founded in Stevenage in 1976 to learn and enjoy dances from all over the world.

At the club's first meeting a dance from Israel was taught called Mayim Mayim meaning Water Water. That evening a thunderstorm broke months of drought and decided the name of the club!

During the 1980's Rainmakers moved to Letchworth where the group has continued to grow. We now meet at St. Michaels Church Hall in Letchworth every Friday at 8.00 pm and are always pleased to welcome new members.



#### Contacts:

Dance leader Chairperson Secretary Treasurer

Jill Bransby Mark Balaam Curle Lee

01462 457791 01462 454210 01462 490071 Richard Thom 01438 316651

It is hard to believe that from small beginnings in September 1976 the Rainmakers have "come of age". There was much reminiscing during the

to listen to Songsplus. This is a group of dankers who sing and musicians from Cloudburst Band who, sing and meet at Till and Peter's house once a month to leave songs in languages other than English which makes the task doubly difficult. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing their group of Czech songs, sung in pants. The last one, introduced by Katka, which she said she learned as a little girl, was suspiciously like London's Burning (Prague is Burning?) but when translated, had nicer words.

The interval was three quarters of an hour long to give us time to eat and reminisce some more - who was at the very first meeting / the first dance and is here tonight?

Maria had made a delicious kirthday cake decorated with a red umbrella and twenty-one candles. Till blew out the candles and made a little speech before she cut the cake. Isabel, acting in her role of Deputy Chairman, presented Till with a bashet of flowers that had a silver key attached to it and thanked her, on our behalf, for all the superb work she has done to keep the Rainmakers going for twenty-one years.

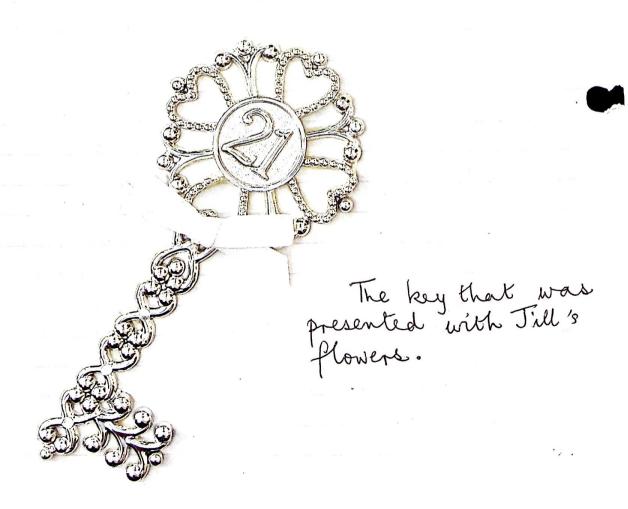
There was still time for more chat and a nifle through old Scrapbooks, looking at the pictures - laughing at ourselves twenty.

one years younger.

Cloudburst Band, in fine form, struck up once more at 9.30 p.m. and we danced until 11.00 p.m. or just after, with only a short pause whilst the raffle prizes (mysteriously wrapped) were drawn. Only the Waltz Cottillion had to be missed out.

With the music playing very quietly we danced Mombar, the final dance, with lights turned out and holding lighted candles in our hands. A memorable evening was over.

So many people had put effort into making the dance a success that Isakel could not possibly thank everyone but I must mention the excellent tickets cum programmes, the decorations, the food, the raffle -all provided anonymously, and then of course the caller, Till and the band, Cloudburst. We all hoped that the Rain makers will see many more anniversaries.

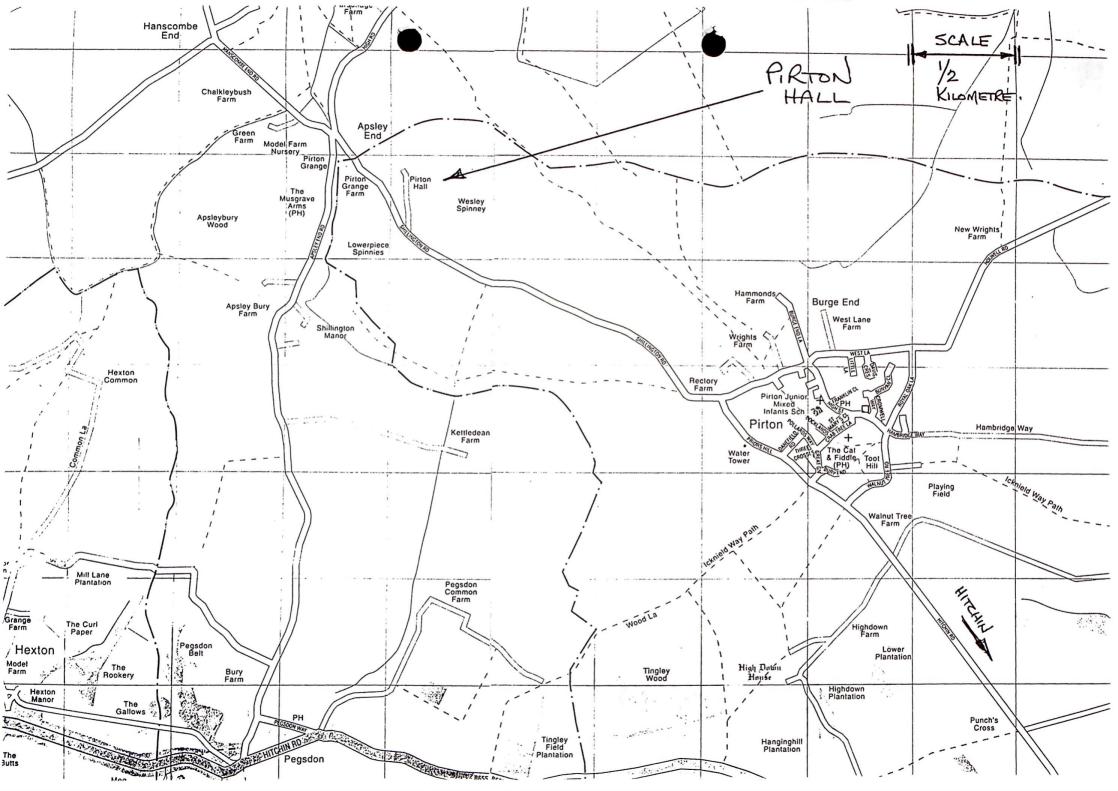


# Pirton Hall Nursing Home - Thursday 13th Novembel 1997



On Thursday 13th November, 6 Roumakes made their way to Puton Hall Nuking Home to entertain the recedents as part of their belated harvest celebration. We donced in the diving room with a good woorder floor, but the space available for us was rather narrow and not very long. The display went reasonably well and our authence did not notice the occasional hierary (losing our beatings in Reiach Duda'im and swopping patners in the Dorset 4-Hand Reel!). After our performance we returned to the sitting room where we had left our belongings, to find a lavish spread of sandwicher and cressi orange juice and wine awaiting us. We had a long talk with the lady who organizes entertainments for the residents and chats with one or two of the old folks who wandeded in and out. I thought one dear old soul had taken a farry to Graham, because of the way she stood without speaking, looking is his disection but we learned later it was the sandwickes on the table beside him that, were the attraction! We sat a sound enjoying the comfortable room until 9.30 (naving finished dancing at 8 s.m.), when we decided we really ought to go home before we got locked in.

Isakel



### PIRTON HALL NEWS

### NOVEMBER 1997

### **HOUSE NEWS**

A very big thankyou to everyone who contributed to our Autumn Fayre on Saturday, 18th October. A total of £180 was raised for our Residents' Entertainment Fund. This money will be used for our Residents' Christmas outing on Saturday, 6th December.

### STAFF NEWS

20 of our staff went for a "Girls' Night Out" at the 'Zeus' Greek restaurant in Baldock last Friday. A wonderful time was had by all, although several of our number were forced to reach for the aspirin on Saturday morning, not to mention the liniment for our aching limbs, as a result of joining in with the Greek dancers!

### RESIDENTS' NEWS

We have great pleasure in announcing that Effie Stapleton is a Great, Great Grandmother for the third time! Baby Abigail was born five weeks ago, and we would like to send many congratulations to Effie and to all her family.

Sadly, Joyce Thomas left Pirton Hall on 30th October. She has returned home after recuperating with us for a few months and we wish her the best of health and every happiness.

### **ACTIVITIES**

Games afternoon
Manicure Sessions
Musical Exercises
Craft Sessions
Library Van
Reminiscence
Church Services
Hairdresser

7th
4th, 17th
10th
6th, 14th, 18th, 20th
17th
21st
11th, 25th

By appointment to suit our Residents

### SPECIAL EVENTS

### SATURDAY, 8th November

Residents trip to Haynes Village Hall for concert with 'Johnny Silvo' and 'Prelude'. Coach leaves 7.00pm.

### THURSDAY, 13th November

A Harvest Supper and International Dancing from 'The Rainmakers', 6.00pm in the Dining Room.

### THURSDAY, 27th November

A talk about the local Hospice and a sales table, including Christmas Cards. 2.30pm in the Lounge.

### FRIDAY, 28th November

Cheese and Wine supper at Pirton Hall for the Hitchin British Schools. A talk from Brian Limbrick and some very special entertainment from an amazing pianist, *Beryl Marriott*. Tickets £6.00, inclusive of cheese, wine and all entertainment.

### BIRTHDAYS

Teresa Blackall on the 19th Joan Tomlins on the 23rd Tony Barnard on the 27th

We would like to wish them all a very Happy Birthday.

### VILLAGE EVENTS

Saturday, 21st

Old Time Music Hall in Shillington Village Hall, 7.30pm.

### FUTURE ATTRACTIONS

### Saturday, 6th December

Pirton Village Hall. A special Christmas "Stuff the Turkey" with 'ARTISAN', a trio from Yorkshire and 'THE JAM TARTS' from Pirton.

An amuzing everning of poems, sketches, monologues, seasonal songs and carols, plus some wonderful close harmony singing. Coach leaving Pirton Hall at 7.15pm.

### ODDS AND ENDS

Our appropriate verse this month was given to us by Molly Davenport, Madeline's sister. It was written by JACK GUTHRIE in 1982.

### TWO MINUTES SILENCE

It is when.

The strong are weak
The weak are strong
The mighty are humble
The humble are mighty
The mightiest pay tribute

And rulers obey
The captive are free
And the free are captive

It is when,

The armless salute The legless stand The sightless see And mothers weep

While we stand among poppies.

### Rainmakers Dance Display

Pirton Nursing Home, Pirton.

Thursday 13th November 1997.

Duration: Approx 1/2 Hour starting at 7.30pm

(Please arrive no later than 7.15pm)

Dancers: Graham

Mark

Isobel

Patti

Sheila

Maria

Programme

Alunelul

Romanian

All

Reich Dudaim

Israli

Mark & Patti

Graham & Isobel

(Scent of the Mandrake)

Tarantella Fasola

Italy

Graham & Maria

General Chat (Costumes Club etc.)

Bourree de la Chapalott

France

Mark Maria & Sheila

Mexican Hat Dance

Mexico

Graham & Isobel

Dorset 4 Hand Reel

**England** 

Mark & Patti

Graham & Sheila

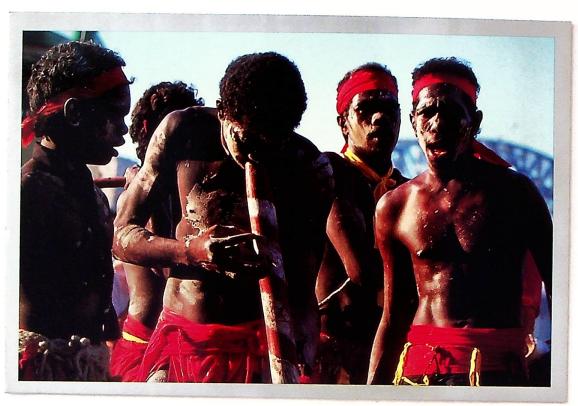
Erev Ba

(Evening Dance)

Israil

All

### Till and Peter visit Australia. November 1997.



This card from Jill and Peter was dated November 17th. They had just visited their son in Perth for one week and were then going on to Alice Springs and Queensland.

Jill mentions the Spring blossoms and wonderful birds and flowers they saw in the forests south of Perth. They hoped to see Aboriginal singers and dancers when they were in Queensland.

On their return home Till kindly gave us these photographs taken in the Aboriginal Cultural Park near Cairns. Are not they excellent! It is good to see Peter joining in. No doubt Till did too-if she had half a chance but I notice that the performers are all men.

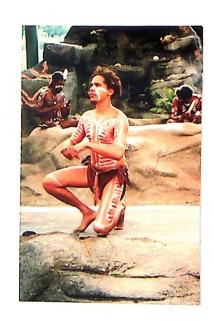


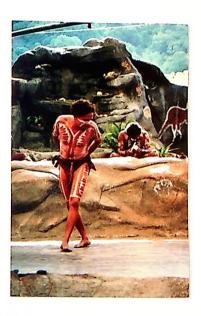
Tjapukai -Aboriginal Cultural Park, near Cairns in Queensland.

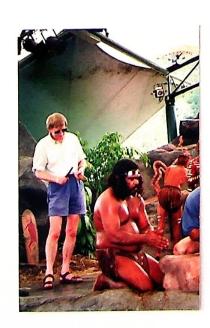










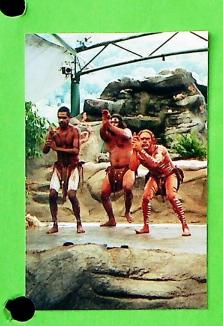


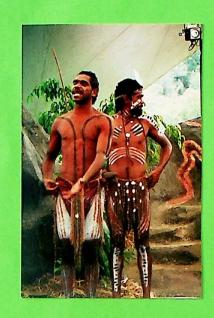






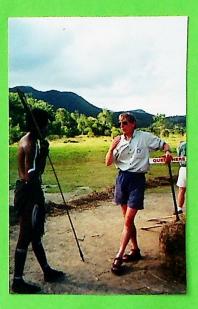


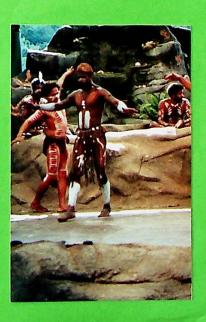












Saturday 22 nd November 1997 - Charety Concert at Knight's Templar School, Baldock, in ded of the Gerden House Hospece and BBC Children in Need.

# A treat in store

THEY say that variety is the spice of life, so don't miss a superb show in Baldock on Saturday, November 22.

Baldock Ladies Circle has spent months arranging the extravaganza of music, dance, poetry, humour and more.

The show will be held at Knights Templar School in the town, tickets are still available at just £5 each.

Karen Perry, chairman of the ladies circle, said: "We have some brilliant acts lined up, from brass bands and Irish dancers to a poet and humorist. It's all fairly light-hearted stuff, and promises to be very entertaining."

be very entertaining."
For tickets, phone
Karen on 01462 895789
or Moira Smith on
892470.

All this and the Raimmakers too!

The months spent "arranging the extravaganza did not include letting as know the dimensions of and point of entry to the stage, so it was only on the Tuesday that Belinda, who was taking charge of our dispolar, was able to attend a 'reheavial' at the school and find out for refell. Our rehearsal then took place in the playroom of the Lanshury feridence at 8 p.m. on the evening of the show— we were due in Baldock at 9 p.m., to dance at 9.30 p.m. for 10 minutes.

Of worke, we arrived early to find that the show was runing late, but they cut the interval short so we were on stage by 9.45. The

stage was somewhat slippery and not as deep as we would have liked, so we had to be carful when the dances took us near the front of the stage. There were nine of us dancing, 3 men and 6 women. We all danced Bourree de la Chapelotte and Tretarls polifia, then 3 couples performed Sadala Polta, and we finished with everyone in Rav Brakot. There were audible gaspe from the audience when we launched into our last dance, though whether this was caused by our athletic leaps, or glimpses of the women's partalooms (we were in Baique costure) I do not know!

Saturday, November 22nd 1997. See Isabel's report.

Baldock Ladies Circle presents a Charity -Dariety Show in aid of The Garden House Hospice BBC Children in Need with RICHARD WATERHOUSE our compere for the evening

I notice that we are referred to as a Troupe' - like monkeys or Boy Scouts!



### Dear Friends,

It has been my enormous privilege to have been associated with Garden House Hospice since its birth some eight years ago.

In all that time, I have never ceased to be amazed by the extraordinary dedication and spirit of the people that work under its roof. Their kindness, compassion and good humour stand as an example to each of us. In their number, of course, I include the gentle army of volunteers without whom we simply could not function; for we are an "independent" charity, costly to run yet increasingly indispensable to the community which we serve.

And that is why I am so grateful to all of you who help us so much in our day-to-day fund-raising. Without the financial aid that we receive from businesses, associations and individuals we would simply not survive. We are not a luxury, and we are proud and relieved that you acknowledge this.

So here's to all our futures and my heartfelt thanks to everyone this evening for your support and generosity to Garden House!

Nigel Hawthorne, CBE President of Garden House Hospice

# Acknowledgements

Baldock Ladies Circle would like to offer a huge "thank you" to all acts for giving their time and talents freely, benefiting the Garden House Hospice and Children in Need.

Grateful thanks must also go to Keith Pitts, Richard Waterhouse, Baldock Round Table and 41 Club, Knights Templar School and the wealth of support received from everyone who has contributed to the success of this evening.

Particular thanks to you for your support we hope you enjoy the show.

Karen Perry
Chairman Baldock Ladies Circle

Producer Keith Pitts

Compere Richard Waterhouse

Lighting lan Perry
Sound Matt
House Manager John Adams

Stage Crew Briony Balsom . Laura Kemp

Jill Evans . Jane Edgington . Kevin Smith

Call Girl Moira Smith

Bar Colin Marvell . Ian Perry . John Adams Waitresses Jackie Marvell . Michele Bradbury

Helen Brown . Alison Butler

Treasurer Caroline Sapsed

Fund-raising Sue Tapp
Doorman Judith Balsom







I notice that we are referred to as a "Troupe" - like numbers or Boy Scouts!



Saturday, November 22nd 1997.

See Isabel's report.





### GRANT SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING

A bit of the Irish with dancers from the Grant School, for more information about the school, contact Maria on 01256 849191

### KEITH WATSON

We are delighted to welcome Keith Watson, a well known comedian and compere for Variety Express. Keith also appears regularly with the Baldock Theatre Group.

### **ECILOP POTS TRIO**

The Ecilop Pots Trio is made up of Juliet, Jim and Alison, who are all members of the Hertfordshire Constabulary Choir. This is their debut outside the choir and they will be singing "The Cats' Duet" by Rossini, "I know him so well" from the musical *Chess* and "The Goslings".

### THESPIANS MUSIC HALL GROUP

Hitchin Thespians are a local amateur dramatic and operatic society. The Music Hall Group are sure to give us an impressive show tonight. If you would like to book the group contact Susan Osbourn on 01462 621825.

### THE WESTERN WRANGLERS

One of the longest running line dance group in the area. They perform all over the county at shows, fetes and for local charities. They raised £1900 for the South Beds Hospice last year and this year they have raised £3,300 for the Luton & Dunstable Hospital's Special Care Baby Unit and Maternity Ward. Regular classes are held at Hitchin Town Hall. To contact the group call Jill Geeson on 01582 737040.

### NORTH HERTS SENIOR BRASS BAND

A good bit of oomph pah pah to round off part one of our show. Conducted by Alan Robinson. Contact the band on 01462 431852.

### KEITH WATSON

Welcome back to Keith Watson

### RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL DANCE TROUPE

Rainmakers was founded in Stevenage in 1976 to learn and enjoy dances from all over the world. At the club's first meeting a dance from Israel was taught called Mayim Mayim meaning "water water". That evening a thunderstorm broke months of drought and decided the name of the club! Rainmakers are always pleased to welcome new members contact the chairman, Mark Balaam on 01462 454210

### **BOB JONES**

A poet and humorist, Bob is a writer and performer who blends personal experiences into a hilarious mixture of everyday-life observations. He is a regular on the Performance Poetry Circuit and plays at venues as diverse as the Comedy Store, folk clubs, schools and festivals. His poems have been broadcast on Radios 2 and 4 and London Weekend Television. If you would like to contact him call 01992 558956

### **FOOTLIGHTS CHOIR**

A choir of members from Hitchin Thespians. Their aim is to raise funds for rehearsal rooms at Woodside Hall in Hitchin. They provide an evening of entertainment for a fee and have been entertaining in the area for 6 years and produce a new program every year. Tonight they will perform "Snow White to Notre Dame" a jaunt through the music of Disney films old and new. Conducted by Mr John Edwards and Ms Janice Frith at the piano. Contact Sandra Page on 01462 677623.

### **JASPER'S TROUSERS**

A musical duo with guitars and vocals from Oliver & Jonathan. Giving us an exciting musicale finale.

### INTERVAL

Bar and refreshments available











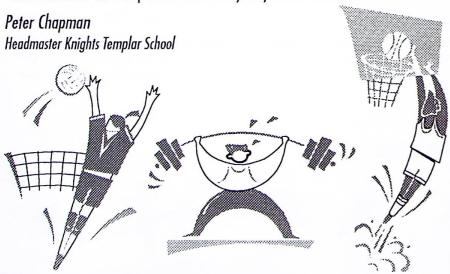
I notice that we are referred to as a "Troupe" like monkeys or Boy Scouts!

## A Sports Centre for Baldock based at Knights Templar School

Preparations are well in hand to make a bid to the National Lottery for a brand new sporting complex. Plans have now been drawn up and the project has been costed at around £850,000. The school has to raise 25% of this amount and has so far been pledged £150,000 by Herts County Council; a generous pledge is also hoped for from North Herts District Council. The school has so far raised £14,000 through it's own efforts.

The centre would not only enhance the school's sports facilities but would also improve the facility of local leisure provision for Baldock and village residents. It would be open to the public in the evenings, at weekends and during the holidays.

Knights Templar plans have received a warm response from local clubs, institutions and politicians, including our MP, Oliver Heald. Things are looking good, but we do still have money to raise. Many thanks to all who buy our raffle tickets or who help to donate in any way to our scheme.



# **Expand your horizons**



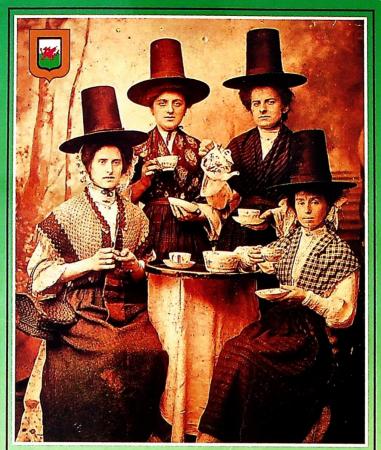
- If you're between 18 and 45, Circle could be just what you need
- Make friends with other fun-loving, motivated women.
- Try all kinds of new activities and sports
- Enjoy dinners, lunches, weekend activities, trips in the UK and abroad
- Join in fund-raising events for local, national and international charities
- Try a whole range of exciting activities with your partner, your family and our kindred organisation Round Table
- For further information about Baldock Circle call
   Karen Perry on 01462 895789 or Helen Brown on 01462 624875



- The ideal club for men aged between 18 and 40
- Make friends and expand your social horizons
- Try new sports like abseiling, hang gliding, white water rafting and bungee jumping
- Enjoy entertaining evenings, weekends away, trips in the UK and abroad
- Get involved with all kinds of fund-raising and support activities for your local community
- There is a whole range of exciting activities for you to enjoy with your partner, your family and often with our kindred organization Circle.
- For more information about Baldock Round Table call
   Paul Bradbury on 01462 733393 or Colin Marvell on 01462 490995

Take the plunge and join Circle or Table now!

I notice that we are referred to as a "Troupe" \_ like mankeys or Boy Scouts!



Welsh Ladies
Dutiful in the Kitchen
Pious in the Chapel
Rampant in the Bedroom

Card from George Sweetland (S.1. F.D) after our 21st Anniversary Dance. te Said:

The Said:

Dear Till. Thankyon and Rainmakers for a most enjoyable evening for Alex and myself. I bought this cand (at Llangallon) a couple of years ago and meant to ask if it was a meeting of the S.I.F.D. Teachers Committee:

Regards, George.

Welsh Ladies taking Tea.
The tall black hat was sometimes worn at formal occasions in Wales in the hineteenth century.

## Rainwakers Annual General Meeting. December 5th 1997.

The meeting opened at 8.08 p.m. with Mark in the chair. Apologies were received from Jill and others. Twenty two members were present.

from last year's A. G. M. were:

I hower attendance of members on a Friday evening than in previous year and few new members who stay with us.

2) Several methods of recruiting new members are being tried i.e. more advertising and more public displays.

3) We have not been invited to go to Nints St. Georges.

4) The music library is being re-vamped. The 60 most used dancer have been transferred to single tapes with notes on the dances and instructions. This will make it easier for a member to run an evening.

Chairman's Remarks.

Mark said he was stepping down as chairman. He thanked the committee members and other people who had worked for the club.

Graham thanked Mark for his two years as Chairman.

Secretary's Report.

Curle gave a brief review of the club's activities during the past year. She particularly mentioned the filming by Anglia T.V., the

clubs 20th Anniversary Dance, the S.I.F. D 50th Anniversary Dance, a Day Course taught by Janet Woolbar, the Candle Dance being performed by Rainmakers at an S.I.F.D. Dance and our club's appearance at the Hitchin Gathering where our display was called Dutch Crossing.

Treasurer's Report.

Richard pointed out that we are in deficite. (See Balance Sheet).

There was a debate re funding. It was decided that annual subscriptions should cover the club's running costs therefore they will be in creased from January 1st to £3 per member.

The weekly subscription will remain

the same.

Richard unged more members to attend regularly and to support Day Courses. Adrian said that \$400 at least should be kept in the Equipment Fund to replace the Coomber when it becomes necessary. Peter suggested that in future the

annual subscription should be set at two levels - one for S.I.F. D. Members and one for non-numbers.

New Committee.

Chairman-avaham, Secretary-Curle, Treasurer Barry, Committee - Sheila & Isabel.

Betty thanked the people who had contributed photographs and articles for the Scrapbook. Dates of future activities were given.

The meeting closed at 8.45 p.m.

Henry Lee.

## RAINMAKERS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FRIDAY 5 DECEMBER 1997, 8.00 p.m.

to be held at St Michaels Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth Herts.

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### **AGENDA**

1.	Apologies for absence
2.	Minutes of the 1996 A.G.M.
3.	Matters arising from minutes
4.	Chairman's remarks
5.	Secretary's report
6.	Treasurer's report

Appointment of auditors

Any other business

Fixing of annual and weekly subscriptions

Elections of officers and committee members

7.

8.

9.

10.

#### RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

#### INCOME

1995/96	FRIDAY NIGHTS		1996/97
884.85 1.00	Weekly subscriptions (1) Donation	936.00	
	•		936.00
,	EVENTS		
149.00 38.35	Anniversary dance Day courses	168.00 58.45	
160.00	Displays (4)	20.00	
-	Workshops	40.50	
98.00	Victoria Embankment	-	
8.78	Profit from joint Staplers dance	4.60	
			291.55
	ADMINISTRATION		
75.00	Annual subscriptions	61.50	
17.17	Interest	9.03	
			70.53
	EOUIPMENT		
1432.15			1298.08
106.37	Excess of expenditure over income		179.85
1538.52			1477.93

#### INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1996-97

#### EXPENDITURE

1995/96	FRIDAY NIGHTS		1996/97
771.00	Hire of Hall	822.00	
6.99	Tapes, instructions, videos etc	(2) 31.98	
22.73	Squash	30.78	
7.50	Travelling expenses - Simon Guest	t -	
7.50 8.97	Storage boxes	-	
6.78	Incidental catering expenses	-	
-	Slipstop	14.05	
67.19	Miscellaneous	21.99	920.80
	EVENTS		
161.39	Anniversary dance	167.00	
32.06	Day courses	57.99	
_	Hire of hall - workshops	39.00	
104.50	Hire of hall - practises (3)	63.00	
104.50 131.90	Victoria Embankment	-	
11.99	Gathering expenses	15.00	
8.88	Cecil Sharp House display	-	
_	Tambourine	3.20	
13.75	Miscellaneous expenses	9.55	354.74
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
23.50	SIFD affiliation fee/donation	23.30	
48.70		53.07	
22.55	Postage	15.44	
4.50		7.00	
5.38	Stationery etc.	3.30	
7.00	Newsletters	3.60	
-	Adverts	16.00	
13.39	Scrapbook	1.97	
_	Miscellaneous expenses	3.30	126.98
	EQUIPMENT		
14.99	Battery Charger		
	Single tapes & instruction		
	manual (5)	33.11	
42.88	Equipment repair	42.30	75.41
			1477 00
1538.52			1477.93

,

1432.15 Net Income	1298.08
1538.52 Net Expenditure	1477.93
(106.37) Excess of income over expenditure	(179.85)
1240.76 Balance brought forward	1134.39
1134.39 Balance carried forward	954.54
88.96 Cash in hand	52.75
1045.43 Bank	901.79
1134.39	954.54

#### Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance)

292.48 NIL	Balance brought forward Events Profit	234.61 NIL
292.48 57.87	Purchases/Repairs	234.61
	r ar onabob/ Noparro	
234.61	Balance carried forward	159.20
1134.39	Balance	954.54
234.61	Equipment Fund	192.31
899.78	Working Capital	762.23

#### Notes attaching to the accounts

We do not believe the answer to balancing the books next year is to be found by increasing weekly subscriptions. This could reduce attendances further.

As a result, we decided to revamp the allocation of certain items of expenditure. The SIFD affiliation fee covers all the club's activities. The same applies to the insurance (All Risks on our equipment and Public Liability). The adverts that we placed in one issue of Puddingstone and Unicorn were for events and club nights. Consequently we now feel that these three items are an administration expense rather than a Friday Night expense.

The decision to reorganise certain items means we can justify keeping the weekly subscriptions unchanged for a further year.

- Weekly subs. 360 @ 85p and 630 @ f1 down 51. The average weekly attendance is down from 23½ to 22.
- 2. Includes the video from the Anglia TV show.
- 3. Hire of hall for Gathering practises only.
- We have only undertaken one fee-paying display this year.
   Vital income has, therefore, been lost.
- 5. We have purchased thirty new single dance tapes (one dance on each side) and an accompanying instruction manual. The committee felt this should be shown as a capital (equipment fund) expense and not a running cost.

Some Friday nights are historically guaranteed loss makers. If the club wishes us to run them there is then a financial consideration to raise money.

The Equipment Fund has almost halved in two years. The Coomber will not last forever. There is new technology coming onto the market all the time. We may decide to invest in that new technology. There is, therefore, a need to look at ways of raising money to increase the Equipment Fund balance to a minimum of £500. We had previously agreed that the Equipment Fund would be financed by the profits from the Events. In the last two years the Events have made a loss. Previously we had had a couple of large fee-paying activities that enabled us to set up the Equipment Fund.

We also need to look at a recruitment drive or persuade us all to miss fewer evenings. Hopefully, we can undertake more feepaying displays in the next year. Members, however, will no doubt have different ideas. Please let us discuss this after we have presented the budget.

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 weekly subscription remains unchanged.
- 2. The committee recommend the annual subscription is increased to £3 with effect from 1 January 1997.
- In drawing up the budget I have assumed that the attendance will continue to drop by an average of one a week. We need to ensure that the income from Friday Nights balances with the expenditure.
- I am assuming an increase in the cost of hiring the hall from 1st April 1998. If this does not happen the Friday Night budget will save £37. A small profit may then occur.

Unless we increase our income from displays or other events we will make a loss on Events. This will probably be entirely due to the Hitchin Gathering costs (hall hire and other expenses).

Staplers' annual subscription, I believe, is £5 and Roundabouters' is £2.50. The committee feel that £3 represents good value although a higher figure could be justified.

As part of a recruitment drive we are proposing to place adverts in Puddingstone and Unicorn for one year ie four issues of each.

To balance the budget consideration must be given to the comments in the notes attached to the annual accounts.

#### INCOME

Friday Nights -	Club nights	46 wks	@ 21pw	6 E1	£	966.00
Events -	Anniversary Day course Displays	dance (	28 + ra	offle)	£££	966.00 165.00 40.00 25.00
				:-4. F	£	230.00
Administration-	Annual subs Interest	40 @ £3	.00		£	120.00 15.00
					£	135.00

#### EXPENDITURE

Friday Nights -	Hire of hall 28 @ £18 Hire of hall 18 @ £20 Tapes etc Squash Callers expenses Miscellaneous		£	522.00 370.00 25.00 32.00 10.00 30.00 
Events -	Anniversary dance Day course Hall - practises Gathering Miscellaneous		£ £ £ £	165.00 40.00 75.00 20.00 15.00
Administration-	SIFD affiliation fee Insurance Postage Phone Secretary's expenses Newsletters Adverts Scrapbook Miscellaneous		£ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £ £	25.00 58.32 25.00 10.00 10.00 64.00 5.00 

## Minutes of Rainmakers Annual General Meeting Held on Friday Dec. 6th 1996 at 8.00p.m. at St Michaels Church Hall, Letchworth, Herts.

The meeting opened at 8.05 p.m.

Chairperson: Mark Balaam Present: 24 members.

#### 1. Apologies For Absence.

Clive Bach, Louise Tomlinson, Marjory Heskins.

#### 2. Minutes of 1995 AGM.

The minutes of the meeting held on Friday 24th Nov. 1995 (which had been circulated in advance) were approved and signed.

#### 3. Matters Arising From AGM Minutes.

A. Item 10. Re: Beginners Workshops.

New committee has been thinking about them throughout the year and we plan to "repackage" the workshops and to have a workshop geared to the whole membership rather than just beginners. This is to happen after the Gathering (1.3.97).

B. Item 10. Re: New Members.

We are looking for new recruitment methods, we had tried to hold a lot of our displays in the Letchworth, Hitchin area so that we can be seen by local people. Thus generating interest in the club.

C. Item 11.4 Re: Nuits St George.

We have made contact with their Town Twinning committee. There will be a visit in 1997, but things are not yet formalised. They will get back to us when they have more information. We are not sure if this will include an invitation to ourselves, we will wait and see.

D. Item 11.7 (D).

We did host the SIFD Dance Dec. 1995. The Candle dance was well received. A Thank you to Roy & Jill for M'Cing the event.

E. Item 10.4 Re: Newsletter.

The newsletter went out just prior to A.G.M. with A.G.M. papers. We have not been able to assess whether or not this was a good way to send it out. The next issue will be mailed out and we will then know if the mailing is a viable choice. This of course depends on club members providing us with enough material to make up a newsletter.

Terry has been approached by M Bell Re: Recruitment. The 3 clubs - Staplers, Rainmakers and Round abouters will have a joint flyer to be passed out at dances and events in the area. We had as a committee been aware of this and were pleased to augment our recruitment scheme in this way.

#### 4. Chairmans Remarks.

Mark thanked the people (non-committee) who have helped with running of the club in various ways.

Anne Gray - Publicity

Maria - Wardrobe Mistress & Refreshments

Betty - Scrap book
Terry - Newsletter
Jill - Dance leadership

Mark thanked Isabel & Graham for being supportive and active committee members.

Richard was thanked for his continued work as treasurer.

Curle was thanked for work as Secretary.

Mark also thanked the club members who helped by running the Friday evenings, Sue, Louise, Graham, Alan, Clive, Richard, Roy, Terry & Belinda.

Mark felt his work as chairman had been able to run smoothly because of the excellent example set by Belinda previously. Mark felt that one of the areas that needed looking at was that with the learning of so many new dances we were losing some of the older ones. Therefore both workshops run during the last year were aimed at revision. It was a shame that these were so poorly attended as they were run to give <u>all</u> members a chance to go back and re-do some of the older dances. In the future he hopes that other club members run some of the displays. He cited Grahams excellent running of the display for Baldock Street Fair. As we wish to have more people involved in running not only displays but Friday evenings, we are going to re-vamp the music library to help make it easier for them.

Mark thanked us all for a good year and Richard gave Mark thanks for a job well done from us all.

#### Secretarys Report.

Curles report included events from 1st September 1995 through August 31st 1996. During which time we held 12 displays including The Gathering and SIFD/CCPR "Spotlight on Dance" at the Royal Albert, 3 Workshops, 2 Garden Evenings, 1 Pub Evening and a farewell to John & Sheila. Curle thanked all members who by participating made this an active & interesting first year for her.

#### 6. Treasurers Report.

It was recommended and agreed that the annual subscription remain the same. It was recommended and agreed that the weekly sub be raised to £1.00, as of 1st January 1997. Each page of the accounts was signed by the auditor prior to being rechecked to minimise clerical error. Adrian proposed accounts be accepted, Isabel seconded. Acceptance of Treasurers report was proposed by Graham - seconded by Curle and agreed unanimously.

#### 7. Appointment of Auditors.

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

#### 8. Election of officers & Committee Members

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

Mark Balaam - Chairperson Richard Thom - Treasurer Curle Lee - Secretary Graham Styles - Committee Isabel Lamont - Committee

Mark reiterated that we would like to have one or two more members on committee.

#### 10. Any Other Business.

- 1. Confirmed dates for practise Hitchin Gathering
  - 1. 10th December 1996 8-10 pm Radwell Tuesday
  - 2. Sunday 12th January 1997 Radwell 2-4.30 pm
  - 3. Sunday 26th January 1997 Radwell 2-4.30 pm
  - 4. Wednesday 5th February 1997 St Michaels hall 8-10 pm
  - 5. Wednesday 19th February 1997 St Michaels hall 8-10 pm (Dress Rehers.)

#### 2. Squash.

We need to be more diligent when cleaning up. make sure Tea Towels are cleaned and returned to club.

Meeting closed at 8.45 pm.

## Sunday, December 7th 1997. S.I.F.D. Dance Led by The Rain makers.

A dozen Rainmakers went up to Cecil Sharp House, London to help run the monthly

dance for the S.I.F.D.

Till had prepared an interesting, varied, programme (which you with see overleaf) but she went down with a virulent kind of flu so she could not be the M.C. At the very last moment Roy gallantly took over this job. Whilst other Rainmakers put up programmes and took turns in maning the door, Roy liared with the band.

After an unavoidably late start the evening got under way. A lot of members were present, some from far flung places, as the Pr. a.M. of the Society had taken place earlier. Everyone was on the floor for

most of the time.

During the interval Fiona Howarth led line and circle dances. She specially included some that she had taught at Letchworth in the Summer.

It was a very enjoyable evening, even though a few favorite dances had to be left out because of lack of time,

Till and the Rainmakers from those present.

I thank Graham for reproducing the programme overleaf for me,

#### SUNDAY DANCE - DECEMBER 7th, 1997, led by The Rainmakers.

#### M.C. JILL BRANSBY

- Neda Grivna
- Lo Ahavti Dai
- Der Steiregger
- Moi Muzhenka
- Ba Pardess
- Kleiner Schottish
- Malezyt
- Hine Ma Tov
- Jesusita en Chihuahua
- Jarabe Tapatio
- Kulsko Hora
- Ras Dwa
- Newcastle
- Hora Mireseii
- Tarantella Montevirgene
- Ijswals
- Shiri Li Kinneret
- A Gota
- Jota Antigua
- Busuiocol
- Renningen
- La Bourée Tournante des Grandes Poteries
- Joc de Leagane
- Pariser Polska
- Dal Dans
- Agir Halay
- 💉 Congo
- Kotaki Ondo
- La Bourée Croisée
- Deux, Deux, Deux,

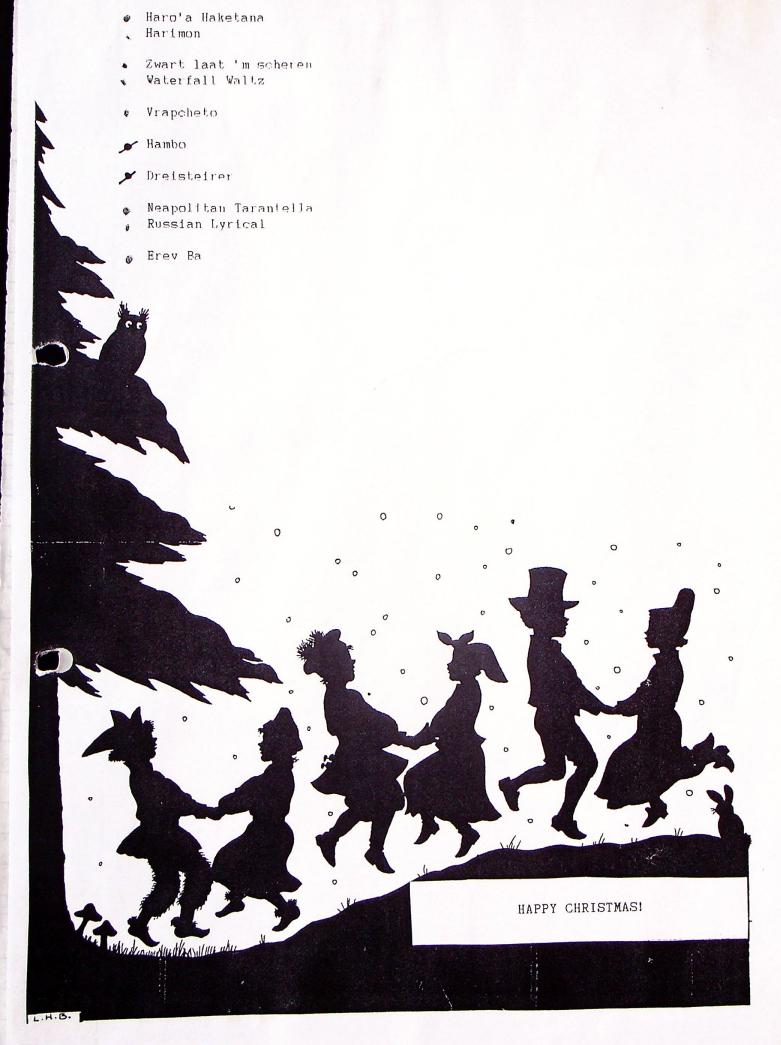
INTERVAL DANCING LED BY FIONA HOWARTH

tuy

= dyssicult

= moderately easy (followable)

= easy ('no morries')



## Friday, December 12th 1997. Christmas Party at Rainmakers.

This year we had a Christmas Dance rather than a Christmas Party. It was a week before our end of term club meeting as many people have other clashing engagements as Christmas hears. This proved to be a good idea as there was a large turnout of members plus four visitors. We were very placed to welcome Janet Woolbar and Frank Flanagan from London and a couple from Milton Keynes.

"Jacob's Ladder", Michael Gilbert's band played for the dancing. It always adds another dimension to the evening to dance to live music. They had obviously worked very hard to learn the tunes of our dances and put in some exciting flourishes at times (especially Michael on

the clarinet and saxaphone.)

During the interval for feasting and chatter, we thanked Till for being our dancing teacher and gove her a present.

We did dance all the dances on the programme, collected our Christmas cards and went home rather wearly, but happily at

11:00 p.m.

The next Friday, December 19th was an ordinary club evening. Unfortunately Julie, suffering from end-of-term itis, thought it was the party night and came in costume. What a shame-she'd missed it!

Christmas Party at Rainmakers, December 12th, 1997.

Band: Jacob's Ladder.

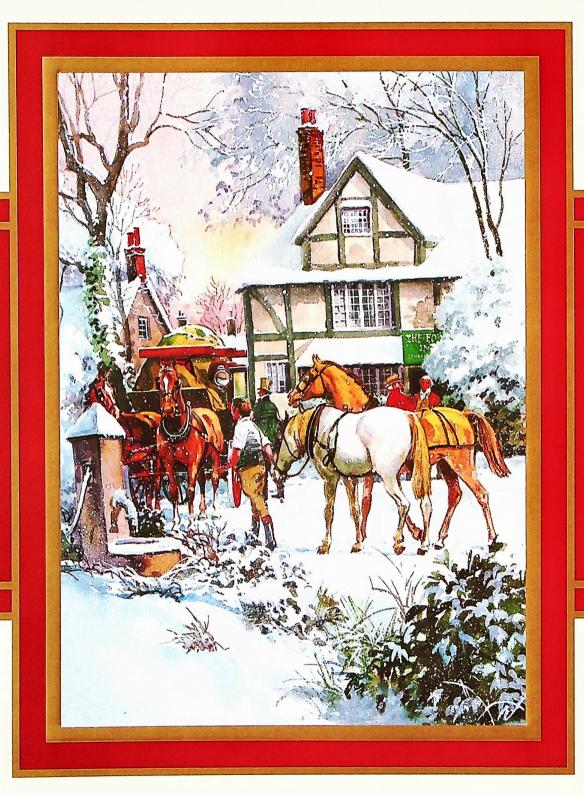
Alunelul Hodoroaga Tzadik Katamar Santis Masoulke Karamfil Doudlebska Polka Mellem Kagel Og Ae Vaeg Deux, Deux, Deux Jiffy Mixer Somogyi Karikarzo Sprotzer Achterum Hoi Harmonica Neapolitan Tarantella El Corrido Kuma Echa Iys Waltz Ssimchu Na Ba Pardess Tarantella Montevirgene Maiezyt Joc de Leagane Hambo Zagrodnik Boanopstekker La Bourree Tournante de la Grande Poteries Maruszka Sharm A Sheix Salty Dog Rag Waterfall Waltz Neda Grivna Ray Brachot Jesusita en Chihuahua En Allant aux Chataignes Mari Mariko Korobushka Russian Lyrical Hora Mireseii Horlepiep Ras Dwa Zemer Atik Jacob's Ladder

We may do this many dances tonight!

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

WISHING YOU A

# Wonderful Christmas



May Christmas fill your heart with warmth and happiness.

To all "Rainmakes

Remembering you this season, Sending warm wishes, too, For a very Merry Christmas and happiness the whole year through, Hoping you enjoy a time filled with festive cheer And celebrations to welcome in

Ive mined you all so much turn perhaps and Ill be with your again have Margery

## S.I.F.D. Dance. Cecil Sharp House, London, Sunday, February 1st 1998. 7-00 till 10.00 p.m.

Eleven Rainmakers went up to Cecil Sharp House, Regents Park Road, London to the International Dance. There was a large crowd of people there. Till was M.C. and She had chosen a programme that was varied in the types of dances included and in their countries of origin. This was popular as most people were on the floor for most of the time, including the Rain makers. Frances Horrocks led the dancing whilst the band had a break. It was a very enjoyable evening.

Graham

put up

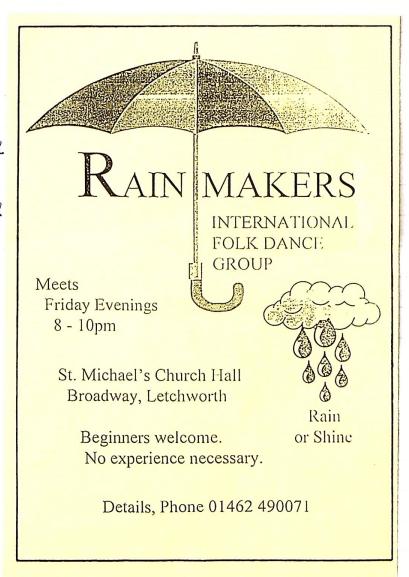
posters

and these

new flyers

to advertise

our club.



7.0p.m - 10.0p.m.

#### SIFD Dance at Cecil Sharp House on February 1st, 1998.

M.C. Jill Bransby

Interval ! Frances Horrods.

Hora Hadera Lo Ahavti Dai

Kreuz Polka Der Steiregger

Branle de Connay La Gavotte de Pont Aven

Ograždenko Hora

Zwart Laat 'm Scheren Ys Wals

Jota Tapatia Chotis de la Frontera

Agir Halay

Morpeth Rant My Lord Byron's Maggot

Haro'a Haketana Hine Ma Tov

Walenki En Allant aux Chataignes

Swedish Schottische
Fjallnas Polska
Dor Coroni
Tarantella 'Fasola'
La Danza

Busuiocol

La Bourrée des Jeunes Congo

Stepping Out Ormere Now you Dance,
Dreisteirer

A Chula Dorset Four-hand Reel

Joc de Leagane

Bucksaw Reel Tancuj A Gota Rondon

Tarantella Rivilisi

We finished with Ever Ba.

Russian Waltz Ruscian Lyrical

Karamiil Vrapeheto

## Hinxworth Women's Institute - 12th February 1998

Henoworth WI had decided to have a Scandinavian theme for their 37th birthday celabrations, and they approached the Rainmakers to provide a suitable display. It was a good opportunity to publicise ourselves, and the offered fee of £30 would please our treasurer, so 10 of as (4 men and 6 women) agreed to so along that kvening. I polished up the selver on my Norwegian certime, while Till borrowed Swedish outfits from the SIFD for the rest of the gorep.

The hall was gaily decorated with perters and flags from Norway Sweden Finland, and Dennath, and a few of the ladies had made an attempt to dress in 'costaine' — these were even I 'horned helmets' in evidence! Husbands were also present for the occasion. We did I display sports, plus 3 joining in dances and our efforts were well received. We were invited to helpowrielve from the buffet of Scandinavian-type food (including a delicious Swedish-vecipe cake baked by one of the WI ladies who is Swedish by birth) and were also given a share of the birthday cake. Then Cirle won a prize in the raffle. All-in-all, another enjoyable evening for everyone.

Isakel.

## Rainmakers at Hinx-worth W. I. Scandinauran Evening. Saturday, February 12th 1998.







	Hinxthworth W.1. Saturday 1 l-ebruary 12th 1998.
	SPOT I 8.45 p.m. (ismins)
(,	Swedish Schottisthe. 14 couples)
	Graham + Tanet, Adran + Istel, Midned + Sil, Royer + Maria
2	- Fyrmannadans (2 sels)
	Adran + Sne, Michael + Isshel.
	Roger + Maria, Graham + Ceule.
3	Trelcails Polsica.
	Tanet Adnan Suc
	Curle Roge Maria
$\tau$	J. Isobal Midnael Jie
4	Gannel Keinlender
	Graham + Jul
5	Litte Man in a Fix.
	Adrian & Marin, Michael & Curle
(2	) Adrai o Maria (in a fix.)
	Michael + Civile, Fsidel + Janet
(5	Graham & Jul , Moger & Sove Openham & Jul , Adrian & Marian ( Myring of room!) Ohans & others of the flow.
(3)	Chais of their of the from.
	Programmes fade down music at end. Thank putoes at end want hands.

SPOT 2. (15 mins)

1. Sandsvaerrh

Michael & Jin, Graham & Janet, Roge + Isola.

2. Pariser Polka

Roger + Maria, Graham, Isabel, Adrain + Tie.

3. Oxdansen. Adran, Graham.

4. Varsourenne Adran + Sue, Midnel + Isobel,

Graham & Ciole, Til + Maria, Progra & Tanet.

repeat as a join in perhaps.

5. Familie Selestut Din in Sex, Sue 11-7 planetically

Spare join ins: Danih Schottishe Fyter Also did — Fyrmanna Schottishe

Spare derno: Mellem Kagel og at væreg.

Graham + Istel, Adria o Yant, Midral + Mara.

# Preparations for the 40th (and last) Hitchin Gathering.



27 Portugal/Madeira. The couple are from the Algarve, Portugal. The woman with the flowers is from Madeira.

#### the side.

In the Algarve, skirts are red, blue, yellow, pink or green with two or three bands of coloured braid, and are full. The cotton blouse has a puffed upper sleeve gathered into a tight fitting lower section, a high round neck and a type of large collar or cape edged with lace. The colours for the blouses vary from plain blue, yellow and pink to floral patterns on a white base. The blouse is worn outside the skirt like a jacket and when the short apron is tied round the waist it gives a fluted appearance to the blouse hem.

A black felt brimmed hat, rather like a Spanish hat, is worn over a scarf with a floral design and a flower is fixed into the hat band. Several white petticoats are worn with white knitted stockings and laced-up

boots.

77

## RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP - HITCHIN GATHERING 1998.

Today the Rainmakers are presenting three dances from Portugal and are wearing costumes based on those from The Algarve made by members of the group especially for today's special occasion.

The music is played by Martin Butler and members of Cloudburst Band.

The first dance is a circular dance for couples and comes from the Algarve, the far South of Portugal, land of intense heat. It is: (Bartay Bartay on Silver Verdi)

The second dance is:
FADINHO A TRÊS TEMPOS
(Fa-deano ah Trezh Tempozh)

This is a dance for couples who dance the Fadinho in three speeds. It comes from the Ribatejo area further North.

The final dance comes from Northern Portugal. It is a set dance which involves figures and turns. It is called:

(A Shoela)

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 their 21st display for the Hitchin Gathering:

Please welcome: PORTUGUESE SUNSHINE. Till's notes for the M.C. on Gathering Day.

the Rainmakers for is to participate in the HOth Hitchin Gathering, we were pleased, (as this event is always a highlight of the club's year) but also sad when we heard that this was to be the last one - ever.

Till and the committee decided that our contribution was to be Portuguese. Till planned a suite of three Portuguese dances. Mana and Isabel decided that the costumes to be worn would be based on those worn in the Algarve Region of Portugal. Halls were booked for four rehearsals during January and February.

There was much searching of shops for suitable hats, white knitted tights and black waistcoats. The charity shops turned up trumps with enough waistcoats to save us a lot of

expense or sewing. The women dancers then had to get busy with scissors, needles, thread and sewing marchines to make their costumes.

When we arrived at St. Michael's Hall on February 4th for the third rehearsal (after two successful practices at Radwell in January) we found a class of hime Dancers Laving a Alssian: Their teacher was determined not to move even though her class was booked from 7 till 8 and Graham had booked (and paid for ) our class from 8.15 till 10.15 p.m. A compromise had to be reached - the hime Dancers held the floor until about 9.00 p.m. then we put in some hard practice, with our musicians, until 10.30 when we were too tired to do any more.

Some Rainmakers joined in the Line Dancing rather than went about. It was very boring. Some - one overheard comments from the Line Dancing Class "They soon picked it up.

"They were quite good, even the old man!" (Henry) who danced in his hat and coat.

Fortunately no line Dancers were in evidence when we arrived for the Dress Rehearsal on February 25th so we had a full evening, going through Bate Bate o' Salva Verde (Algarve)

A Chula (Northern Portugal)

Fadinho a Tres Tempos. (Ribatejo)

Glorious

planned

dancers'

gathering

for the



Staplers get their heads down for the last Gathering. Photos by Peter Trulock

Publicity in the local newspaper -March 6th 1998.

It was nice to see the Staplers being given practically a whole page in the Comet.

Apity the reporter has some of his facts wrong - as usual. There is to be no Inish or brack dancing but there will be Scottish, Portuguese and various kinds of English dancing.

TAKING the floor for the last time is an important annual event in the social and cultural life of Hitchin.

The Gathering has been organised by The Staplers Country Dance Club for the

past 40 years.

end

But now, in the face of dwindling interest, the music is about to die. This Saturday sees the final Gathering.

A spokesman for the organisers said: "Sadly, fewer and fewer are willing to give up their Saturday afternoons, unpaid, for only six minutes of dancing, so Staplers have decided that

they must bring the Gathering to an end in a final blaze of glory."

blaze of glory."

Planned for Saturday afternoon at Hitchin Town Hall is a display of traditional dancing in traditional costume – Irish, European, Israeli and Morris, English courtly dances favoured by the gentry, and English country dances performed and still enjoyed by ordinary people

enjoyed by ordinary people.

Many groups who have given much pleasure down the years will be there along with musicians – including the Orange and Blue Band, making its 29th appearance.

In the evening there'll be a dance for all featuring the Weston Country Dance Band with caller Bernie Chalk.



"Old friends from all over the country will come, to contribute, to enjoy the occasion, to meet each other," said the Staplers spokesman. "It will be a happy-sad occasion."

It will be the end of the Gathering – but the dancing goes on for the Staplers.

The club will continue to meet in Bancroft Hall, Bancroft Park, Hitchin, on Monday evenings to dance.

Members are also looking forward to several Saturday night dances this year, a summer barbecue, pub evenings and similar events put on by other clubs in nearby towns.

Anyone who would like to join the Staplers can either go along to Bancroft Hall on Monday evenings or ring Michael on Hitchin 438960 or Carol on Hitchin 730497.



By JOHN ADAMS

## Dress Rehearsal.



The Chairman takes the choier! Alan was taking photographs.



The Team.

Photos from Isabel.

Advance Publicity for the Final Hitchin Gathering.



COUNTRY DANCE CLUB

# 40th & FINAL HITCHIN GATHERING

HITCHIN TOWN HALL Saturday 7th 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** 

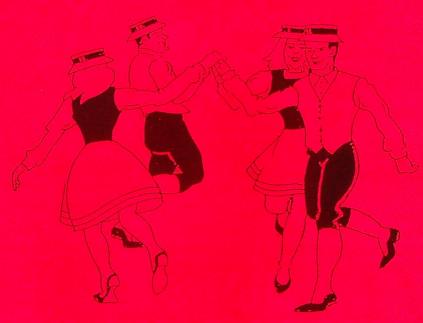
Licenced Bar & Raffle

Bernard Chalk &

Weston Country Dance Band

For details phone: 01462 438960 or 01462 440779





HITCHIN
GATHERING
1998 10p

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FOR ALL YOUR ART MATERIALS

#### THE 40th HITCHIN GATHERING

Saturday 7th March 1998

A special welcome to all our guests, dancers and audience to this the Staplers Country Dance Club's 40th and final folk celebration.

We have arranged a very varied programme of dance and entertainment performed by clubs who have supported Staplers on many occasions during our 40 years

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

This year we welcome back on stage Brian Limbrick as our compere who will be linking the items together, and Pat Gray who will be leading the Children's general dancing. We thank both of them for taking on these two important tasks.

We also thank the 9th Hitchin Guides for providing refreshments and the St John Ambulance Brigade for being in attendance

Finally we thank all the participants and members of Staplers Country Dance Club for their hard work in helping to put on this afternoon's show but more importantly our guests and audience for coming this afternoon and helping our 40th and final Gathering to be such a memorable occasion.

John Rattle (Gathering Committee Chairman 1998)

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

#### THE GATHERING DANCE

Bernard Chalk & Weston Country Dance Band

Cabaret: Life & Times

Tickets available at the door: £5.00 including supper

Licenced Bar by the Highbury & Whitehill Schools PTA

### THE GATHERING DISPLAYS

The Orange & Blue Band: Leader - Roger Nicholls

Master of Ceremonies: Brian Limbrick

The Orange & Blue Band Overture

"Sellengers Round" Staplers

Our Lady's Delight Amersham Garland Dancers

Yorkshire Chandeliers

"Rambler around Shaw" Hemel Hempstead

The Amazed Geneticist

Hemel Hempstead Roundabout

Miss Avril's Delight Kitty's Rambles

"Songs & Instrumental" Ivel Valley

Staplers (Oldies but Goodies) "A Staplers Evening in the

Early Seventies"

Anniversary Reel North Herts Reel Club

> The Robertson Rant Mac Donald of Sleat

\*\*\*\*\*\* Childrens Dancing with Pat Gray \*\*\*\*\*\*\*

Offley Morris Skirmish (Bledington)

Banks of the Dee (Fieldtown)

May & Harold Ross "Clog Dance"

Roundabouters "Dances Ancient & Modern"

Sun Assembly Mr Isaac's Maggot Miss Dolland's Delight The Stowe Pool Contra

Thanks to William Warder of UNICORN SOUND SYSTEMS for PA

92 Austin Paths, Stevenage. Tel (01438) 222424

#### THE GATHERING DISPLAYS

"Songs from a Morris Ale" Mark Elliott & Albert Openshaw

A mixer dance St Andrew's School

> Barley Reel Durham Reel

Gathering Peascods

"So Long the Gathering" Staplers

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

"And now for something **Ballz Unlimited** 

completely different"

"Ruby Celebration" **Fine Companions** 

The Round Up Goes Aily Bury Fair

Young Mans Fancy

"Rapper Sword" Grand Union Rapper

"Portugese Sunshine" Rainmakers

Bate Bate ó Silva Verde Fadinho A Três Tempos

A Chula

"Big Deal" Contra

**Bedford Morris** North West Clog Morris

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in the Small Hall

by

Dave Mallison Music Diss, Tel 01379 890088

> & The

Society For International Folk Dance

Available all afternoon

REFRESHMENTS

in the Small Hall

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 80 members and warmly welcome newcomers.

To find out more about us, contact: Carol (01462) 730497

#### CONTACTS FOR OUR GUESTS

Amersham Garland Mrs Phyllis Chapman,

Amersham (01494) 725962

Ballz Unlimited Ben Higgs, Hitchin (01462) 433005

Fine Companions Elizabeth Lambert, Bedford (01234) 342121

Bedford Morris Men Phil Cooper, Bedford (01234) 871460

Contra Mrs Anne Pennells, Atherstone (01827) 714307

Grand Union John Beirne,

Rapper Leighton Buzzard (01525) 371336

Hemel Hempstead Mrs Sheila Anderson,

Hemel Hempstead (01442) 268636

Ivel Valley Chris Rutt, Hitchin (01462) 700451

Life & Times Barry Goodman, Hitchin (01462) 456811

Mark Elliot Letchworth (01462) 674986 May & Harold Ross Hitchin (01462) 700164

North Herts Reel Mrs Jennifer Warburton,

Hitchin (01462) 812691

Offley Morris Mike Pike, Letchworth (01462) 678375

Rainmakers Curle Lee, Hitchin (01462) 490071

Roundabouters Mrs Pat White, Stevenage (01438) 354488 St Andrew's School Mrs Barbara Burton, Hitchin (01462) 813620

Your local Library will have details of many other Folk Song & Dance Clubs in the area.

Or Contact

The English Folk Dance and Song Society,

Cecil Sharp House, 2 Regents Park Road. Tel 0171 485 2206



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OME AND ENJOY YOUR SHOPPING AT HAWKINS.

Don't forget our baby-changing and children's play area



HAWKINS 4-8 Bucklershury, Hitchin Herts SG5 1BB



Members of the Rainmakers have taken part in the Hitchin Gathering twenty one times - every year since our club began. We shall miss the anticipation (Will Rainmakers be invited this year?) the preparation (Planing the programme, leaving the dances, making the costumes) and the participation (The excitement of the six minute spot, dancing to the music played by Martin Butler and members of Cloudburst Band.) Over the years we have battled through rain, gales and blizzards to attend rehearsals. I remember one Gathering Day when we awake to deep snow and icy roads. I sakel phoned at about eight o'clock to say Can we go?" My reply was "We must."

This year the Staplers were even more full of memories as this was to be the fortieth and final Gathering. Clubs who have supported the occasion over the 40 years were asked to perform and Brian Limbrick, the original compere and M.C. for most of there years, was invited to return to link the items together. Former Staplers who had moved from the Hitchin area could be spotted in the audience.

For the overtise the Orange and Blue Band usually play a medley of dance times arranged by Roger Nicholls for the performers who are to come. This year they began with the hounting and very beautiful Abbot's Browley Horn Dance time, went on to several favourite Playford and other English dance times, and

tunihed with the music hall song We've been

4.30 p.m. those of us who were not carrying out various duties as Staplers, were able to worth most of the Show from the audience - a great pleasure it was too.

After the Overture some present members of Stoplers, wearing Festival costume, danced Sellenger's

Krund.

They were followed by the American Gardeni Dancess. There ladies made a pretty sight in their flowered dresses and carrying half hoops Mickly covered with flowers, as they danced two dances in volving many changes of pattern, but using one basic step all through. Their Spacing and lines were near perfect.

Hernel Hempstead's offering was a group of four Pat Show dances deverly floring into each other but each one having a different thythma and shape. It was a very polished

performance.

When Brian Limbrick introduced Ivel Valley for their Jongs and Instrumental he told us that more than twenty years ago he printed out Chris Rutt (now their leader) to Roger Nicholls and said "That lad will go far. It has tralent".

The next item was a surprish as the Staplers Evening in the Early Seventies featured couples who danced at the club many years ago. Several of them have moved away from Hetchin since but returned for this special day. Rainmakers were pleased to see Gordon and Dalphine Stacey

among them as they were two of five people who founded our International Folk Duning

Group in 1976.

The North Heats Reel Clip chose to dance "golden oldies" too. They probably performed there dances at the Gathering forty years ago. I Certainly remember dancing MacDonald of Sleight at Ameroham in the early nineteen fifties.

After the Children's Dancing the Offley Moon's Men came on in great force to dance two traditional dances really well. I think some of the older men were guite glad there were such numbers of them that they could change in for the second dance "Banks of the Dee". They then pinched a bit of extra time over the allotted six nimites" (a thing unheard of at past Gatherings) to dance the traditional Morris Men's Farewell to go off.

May and Harold Ross are weal clog dancers and their stepping made a very pleasant though May had trouble with the slippeny

floor. They left to warm applause.

The Roundakouters from Stevenage are an offshoot of Staplers. Brian told us that in the early days the Staplers had over a hundred members and many of them came from Stevenage. The Staplers Committee gave teter Shea £50 (a lot of money then) to start a club in Stevenage over thirty years ago. Most of the people who joined it belonged to both clubs after that! The Roundabouters danced a suite of Dances Ancient and Modern".

At this point I had to go to change in readiners for the Rainmakens' spot so I did not hear Mark Elliott and Albert Openshaw both both both Morris dancers, singing Songs from a Morris Ale but I know they are good as they have sung at the Gathering often kefore. I just caught the last two dancers by children from It. Andrews School. They seemed to be thoroughly enjoying themselves and dancing with great gusto. We hope their enthusiasm continues and that they join.

The Staplers' final performance was given by their display team in the club costume. The ladies' purple skirts and straw Lats are a reminder of Hitchin's ancient industries of lavender growing and straw plaining. The dance was Newcastle ingeniously arranged by Nick Plum so that each couple entered separately, dancing, until the full circle was bruilt up. The M.C. asked us to rember members of Staplers, whom he named, now dead, who had worked so hard for the Gathering.

There was a minute's silence. Then Pat Gray led more Children's Dancing whilst many adults retreated to the Gym for a cup of to a and a chat - a great deal of chatting went on that afternoon as so many remions were happening. There were photographs of part events on the walls to encourage more Do you remembers?

We missed seeing the juggling of Ben

Higgs (son of Stapler Bernard Higgs) and his friend as Balle Untimited, and the Fine Companions "Ruley Celebrations" as we were assembled in the Bar ready to perform. We were sorry to miss them as they are

always very good.

From our line in the corridor some fifteen minutes later (Shoh! Quiet Please) we could hear laughter, gasps and loud applause from the aridience for Grand Union Rapper. We heard later that they gave an excellent display and did Some unusual things. Then, at last, we heard Brian say Portuguese Sunshine danced by the Rainmakers. We danced on and our suite of Partuguere dances went well. Nobody slipped or went wrong and the six minutes spot seemed to be over in a flash. Our niusicians had to start Fadinho A Très Tempor twice as nobody heard the first quet starting music as the M.C. was talking over it. However that seemed not to be noticed except by us. Afterwards we heard people say how much they liked our spot The dancing was lyrical and we were complimented on our costumes.

The afternoon ended on a high with Contra, a team from Atherstone, led by Bill and Barbara Kinsman, dressed as packs of cards, dancing their famous "Big Deal". They were followed by Bedford Morris,

innaculately dressed, boudly stamping on in

their clogs, two downs in their band, to give us a splendid sequence of North East West clog Morris dancing.

Even though the show was by now almost an hour over run, there was time for more memories and farewells. The leader of the Orange and Blue Band, Roger Nichollo, who has made practice tapes and accompanied many of the groups performing (only live nuisie is allowed at a Hitchin Gathering no tapes) for all of the forty years, presented a manuscript of the Abbott's Bromley Horn Dance time to the Staplers as a keepsake.

The Chairman of the Gathering from Staplers, John Rattle, thanked Brian

The Chairman of the Cathering from Staplers, John Rattle, thanked Brian Limbrick and everybody who had worked so havel to make the day a success. Then a large crowd of performers and

All those taking part had obviously gone to enormous trouble to rehearse and give of their best. It was an afternoon to

remember.



John Rattle, chairman of the Gathering, goes out dancing with (right) Bridget McRury, chairman of the Staplers, and Ces Mills, performers organiser

## Sad day of club's last dance

A CHAPTER in North Herts' dance history closed on Saturday following the final Gathering.

The event has been organised by The Staplers Country Dance Club for the past 40 years, but now a halt has

had to be called due to lack of interest amongst dancers.

Dancers wanting to give the event a rousing send-off met up for the event at Hitchin Town Hall.

The programme included traditional dances from Europe, plus Israel, Morris and English courtly style.

The Staplers will continue to meet in Bancroft Hall, Hitchin, to dance.

Hitchin Gazette. Friday, March 13th.



Till's photograph of the team at the rehearsal.



Dancing A Chula.





Fahdinhoatres Tempos



A Chula



A Chula.



The team in the bar before going on.

# Friday, March 13th 1998. Post Gathering Party, 8.00 - 11.00p.m.

It was amazing to see forty people in St. Michael's Hall for our Post Gathering Party. This number included five visitors so it was a very good turnout of Rain-makers. Many of those present wore various international costumes which added to the festive occasion.

Jill led us through a lively programme of dances, some of which were requests, at a great pace. She had to work very hard and quickly teach some of the dances which were unfamiliar to the visitors and members who do not come to the club very frequently. This she did cheerfully but she must have felt exhausted by the time eleven o'clock arrived.

Maria and members provided a spread of delicious refreshments which were eagerly consumed.

Martin Butler had brought his accordion along so he played some extra dances for us during the evening. It always adds an extra pleasure to dance to live nuisc.

Programme overleaf.

### Post Gathering Party.

Soulam Ya'a Kov. Vlashko Mari Manko Kotataki Ondo Moi Mushenka Hambo Bylolitsa Kryblitsa La Bastringue Trakijska Rucenitsa Little Man in a Fix Karapyet / Korobuska Erev Shabbat Kreuz Köenig Tesusita en Chihnahna Ograzdensko Horo Windmill Reiach Dudain Der Steinegger Tove Malo Mome Twelfth Street Rag Hava Nagila Mexican Waltz. Horo'a Haketana Ever Ba.

Extras:Dorset Fourhand Reel.
Mellionen
Levi Tackson's Rag

## Saturday, April 14th 1998. Irish Set Dance Workshop, 10.30a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

The Rainmakers held a Day Course in Inish Set Dancing on Saturday, April 4th. The Venue was different from the usual ones used in Letchworth being St. Michael's Community Centre, Hitchin, - quite

near the railway station.

As all things Irish are popular at the moment Groham, our Chairman, was hoping to attract members of the public as well as dancers from local English dancing clubs, support from hondon area S. I. F. D. members besides our own Rainmakers. Much advertising was done to this end.

The teacher, Diana Hewitt, an experienced Insh dancer, is the Education Officer of the English Folk Song and Dance Society and is responsible for encouraging folk dancing in schools and

helping the teachers.

Inish Set Dances are for four couples. On the day there were three sets with Diana Hewitt joining in to make up the numbers. This was a disappointing attendance especially as thirteen of the twenty-three dancers were from Rain makers (some only for half a day). At least five sets were hoped for,

However, those who were present enjoyed their

energetic day.

The dances Diana taught were: — Clare Lancers Set Sliabh Luachra Set

Till has organised a follow-up workshop

to be held at Radwell Village Hall on Wednesday, May 13th at 8.00 p.m.

John Turner, an experienced Irish Set Dancer who was at the Day Course and lives in Stevenage is going to help Till revise the dances.

## Follow-up Workshop. May 13th 1998.

On a very hot evening, nine dancers went to Radwell Village Hall for John Turner's follow-up workshop. This was an awkward number for Irish Set dances as there were four couples and one extra man, John was prepared to call all the time. Its an on-'looker I was benused by his cries of "Body!"
House!", "Christmas Tree", Half-Christmas Tree! but the dancers knew what he meant, They went through both dances taught on April 4th very thoroughly. Sweat was pouring off them but everyone enjoyed it:

The next workshop will be on Wednesday,

Tune 10th at Radwell.

### SLIABH LUACHRA SET

This popular set comes from the Sliabh Luachra area between Kerry, Cork and Limerick.

the Same of the second second second

#### FIGURE 1: POLKA (160 BARS) Chain

- (a) All four couples dance the body: Dance in and back, turn clockwise to the position on the right (4 bars) and repeat the movements three times, going around the set to home (12 bars). (16 bars)
- (b) Top ladies chain, right hands in the centre, left to opposite gent, turning anticlockwise with him and turning clockwise under his arm twice; then chain back to place.
  - (8 bars) Top couples swing in place. (8 bars)
- (d) All dance the body again. (16 bars)
- (e) Side couples dance the ladies' chain and swing. (16 bars)
- (f) Repeat (a) to (e). (64 bars)
- (g) All dance the body again. (16 bars)
- (h) All couples house around. (8 bars)

### FIGURE 2: POLKA (160 BARS) Show The Locky

- (a) All couples dance the body, as in figure 1. (16 bars)
- First top couple house inside or show the lady (8 bars); then slide to the centre, slide back and turn once in place (8 bars). (16 bars)
- (c) All couples dance the body again. (16 bars)
- (d) First side couple (on the left of first top couple) dance
- (b). (16 bars)
- All couples dance the body. (e) (16 bars)
- (f) Second top couple dance (b). (16 bars)
- (g) All couples dance the body. (16 bars)
- (h) Second side couple dance (b). (16 bars)
- `(i) All couples dance the body; then house around. (24 bars)

FIGURE 4: POLKA (88 BARS) LEGICA, Tun, 4 ladicis (a) All couples lead around anticlockwise, holding crossed hands. (8 bars) Holding left hand in left, each lady turns clockwise four times under her partner's arm. (8 bars) The four ladies join right hands in the centre, dance across and linking left arms, turn twice around the opposite gent; then join right hands in the centre again and dance back to place. (8 bars) (d) All couples swing in place. (8 bars)

(32 bars)

(16 bars)

(e) Repeat (a) to (d).

Repeat (a) and (b).

#### FIGURE 5: SLIDE (232 BARS) Long slide (8 bars) Top couples house around each other. Top couples slide to the centre, slide back and house across to opposite positions. (8 bars) Top couples repeat (b), dancing back to place. (8 bars) Top couples house around each other again. (8 bars) (e) Top couples repeat (b) to (d). (24 bars)

(f) Side couples dance (a) to (e). (56 bars) Top couples repeat (a) to (e). (56 bars) Side couples repeat (a) to (e). (56 bars)

#### FIGURE 3: SLIDE (160 BARS) Short Slide a Change (a) All couples dance the body. (16 bars) Top couples slide to the centre and back; then house (b) (8 bars) across to opposite positions. Top couples repeat (b), dancing back to place. (8 bars) (c) (d) All couples dance the body again. (16 bars) Side couples dance (b) and (c). (16 bars) (e) Repeat (a) to (e). (64 bars) (f) All couples dance the body again. (16 bars)

(8 bars)

(g)

All couples house around.

### FIGURE 6: HORNPIPE (160 BARS) Ladies more on

- (a) All couples dance in and back in waltz hold (2 bars), dancing hornpipe steps (hop 123); then turn clockwise to the position on the right (2 bars). Repeat the movements three times, dancing around the set to home (12 bars). Body
- (16 bars) (b) All couples house around. (8 bars)
- The four ladies walk on to join the gent on the right. Gents stand in place while the ladies are moving. (8 bars)
- (d) All dance the body with their new partners. (16 bars) All house around with their new partners. (e) (8 bars)
- Repeat (c) to (e) three times, ladies dancing with each gent in turn before dancing the last body and house with (96 bars) their own partners.

### CLARE LANCERS SET

This set is associated with the Crusheen Set Dancers in County Clare. It should be danced in a light style, without jumping or battering.

### FIGURE 1: REELS (160 BARS)

(a) All couples lead around anticlockwise holding hands in front. On the last two bars, ladies turn clockwise under the gents' arms.

(b) All couples swing in place.

(c) First top gent and opposite lady pass left shoulder to left in the centre (2 bars), turn clockwise (2 bars) and swing (4 bars). They finish the swing with their backs to their own positions.

(d) Top couples square, gents clockwise, ladies anticlockwise. They cross right shoulder to right with the opposite person, turn (clockwise), dance through opposite end, passing their partner left shoulder to left. They cross back, right shoulder to right with the opposite person and dance past their partners left shoulder to left.

(e) Ladies face right, gents face left and swing the person in the corner. All finish the swing facing towards their own positions.

(f) All dance back to their partners (2 bars) and swing (6

Repeat (c) to (f) with top lady and opposite gent dancing (c).

Repeat (c) to (g) with side couples leading. First side (64 bars) couple are on the left of first top couple.

All house around, doubling the last two bars.

### FIGURE 4: REELS (192 BARS)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

(32 bars)

(8 bars)

(a) All couples lead around, turn the lady and swing. (16 bars) (8 bars) (b) First top couple house inside. Holding crossed hands in front, both top couples lead around clockwise inside the set, dancing through their

own positions to join right hands in a star with the side (8 bars) couple on their left.

All dance around clockwise with right hands in (4 bars), turn, join left hands and dance back to their own side (4

Both groups swing in four (8 bars) and, without stopping, all break away to swing their own partners back to place (8 bars).

Repeat (b) to (e). This time, second top couple dance (b) and top couples lead around anticlockwise at (c) to join (40 bars) with the side couple right of their own positions.

(80 bars) Repeat (b) to (f) with side couples leading at (b) and (c).

(8 bars) (h) All couples house around, doubling the last two bars.

(8 bars)

(16 bars)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

(8 bars)

### FIGURE 2: REELS (192 BARS)

(16 bars) All couples lead around, turn the lady and swing. (8 bars) (b) First top couple house inside. Holding right hand in right, first top lady turns clockwise four times under her partner's arm, while he dances (8 bars)

(d) Facing each other, top couple cross to the opposite side, turn (clockwise) dance back past each other again and

both top couples line up in side positions. There are (8 bars) now four facing four in side positions.

(e) All advance, retire, advance and side couples retire,

while top couples dance the last two bars in place; then (16 bars) all couples swing. (40 bars) Repeat (b) to (e) with second top couple leading.

(g) Repeat (b) to (f) with side couples leading.

(80 bars) (8 bars) (h) All house around, doubling the last two bars.

FIGURE 5: REELS (192 BARS)

(a) All couples lead around, turn the lady and swing. (16 bars) (b) All face partners, take right hands and chain all round,

gents anticlockwise, ladies clockwise. Partners swing one turn in opposite position; then continue the chain. All dance into a line-up, each lady in front of her own partner. For the first line-up, first top couple face out of their own position, first side couple (on the left) are behind them, second side couple (on the right) are third and second top couple are fourth. (16 bars)

(c) From the line, ladies step to the right and gents step to the left. Then they step back, going in the opposite direction, passing through the other line and turning on the last bar, so that the four ladies are facing the four

Joining hands, the lines advance and retire twice.

(e) All dance back to face their partners (4 bars) and swing (4 bars).

(f) Repeat (b) to (e). This time, second top couple face out of their position to lead the line-up, second side couple behind them.

(40 bars) (g) Repeat (b) to (e), first side couple leading and second top couple behind them. (40 bars)

(h) Repeat (b) to (e), second side couple leading and first top couple behind them.

(40 bars) All couples house around, doubling the last two bars. (8 bars)

### FIGURE 3: REELS (144 BARS)

(a) All couples lead around, turn the lady and swing. (16 bars) (b) The four ladies advance and retire twice. (8 bars) (c) The four gents advance and retire twice. (8 bars) (d) All gents take left hands with the opposite gent, place right arms around their partner's waist and lead around anticlockwise. Turn in towards partners during the last two bars and lead back clockwise, gents holding right hands with the opposite gent. Turn in again, gents reverse into their own positions and form a circle of

Swing in eight, first clockwise (8 bars); then anticlock-

(16 bars) All swing their own partners. (8 bars)

(g) Repeat (b) to (f). (56 bars)

All couples house around, doubling the last two bars. (8 bars)

(16 bars)

## St. Andrew's Old Folks Home, Hitchen, 13th April 1998

A request from St. Andrew's Old Folks Home— one of their staff was retiring and they were holding a party for her, woreld we come along and movede some entertainment?— the date, Easter Monday! We managed to find 6 people, 3 men and 3 women, who were available and welling to dance.

When we got there we found that the main but of the party was over, and families and friends had already left (and there was Graham herping to find some recruits for the club!), but we put our best feet forward to extertain the revidents and the lady who was retiring, and as usual they appeared to enjoy our efforts. We did one joining in dance (nexusan Walts), and Curle, old boy friend was delighted to get a chance to dance it friend was delighted to get a chance to donce it with her again.

At the end, they said they were looking forward to having in back again on a future occasion possibly on a date of our choosing so that nove dancers would be available.

Sabel.

## With Thanks



Card received from St. Andrews Nursing Home.

TO RANMALGRS

many Thanks for An your Time

FROM AN AT ST ANDROWS

Card received from St. Andrews Nursing Home.

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Sabel.

# St Andrews Nursing Home Display 13<sup>th</sup> April 1998

Name	Country	Dancers
Alunelul	Rumania	Ail
Hashual	Israel	Ail
Bouree de la Chapelotte	France	Curle Graham Isabel
L'Offerta	Mallorca	Montin Isobel Adrien Sue
Mexican Waltz	USA	All (Join in)
Maiezyt	Switzerlar	nd Martin Curle Adrian Sce Graham Isabel
Jota Tapatia	Mexico	Greeken Isabel
Hora Hadera	Israel	All
Dorset 4 Hand Reel	England	Graham Combe Isabel Montin Cinle
Bouree Crossee	France	Adrian Sue Martin Isabel
Ssimchu Na	Israel	Grahan Curle All Martin Isobel Adrian Sue
Watenkiz		All Separate Tape
Ox Dance	Sweden	Graham + Adrian
Steiregger	Austria	Grahan Curle Montin Isabel Adrian Sue
A Chula	Portugal	Montin Isabel Grahan Canle
Erev Ba	Israel	All.

## Continental Crossovers

Two workshops exploring connections in music, figures and steps of dances from England and continental Europe

Presented by Jill Bransby

At The Eastbourne Festival, 1998
May lat to May 4th.

### CONTINENTAL CROSSOVERS

Two workshops exploring some of the following connections in music, figures, and steps of dances from England and continental Europe.

Zwart Laat Hem Scheren (Holland)/ Dorset Four hand Reel (CDM 5/13)

Gort Met Stroop (Holland)/Willow Tree (48bar jigs)

Sprötzer Achterum (Germany)/The Royal Albert (CDM 7/19)

Soldiers Joy (CDM 1/5)/Hornfiffen (Denmark)/Dance from Sweden (all go to tune of Soldiers Joy)

Seierstadhopsa (Norway)/The Triumph (Dorset) (CDM5/12)

Lucky Seven (England)/Familie Sekstur (Denmark)

Waltz Cotillion (Quadrilles from France to Ireland and elsewhere)

Vleegert (Holland)/Cumberland Square Eight (CDM 1/9)

Bonny Breast Knot (Devon) (CDM 2/14)/Mellem Kagel Og Ae Vaeg (Denmark)

Argeers (Sharp Country Dance Tunes)/ Bravade (Holland)

...CDM = Community Dance Mannual.

### BRAVADE FROM THE NETHERLANDS

Dance reconstructed by Dutch band 'De Perelaar' after a form originally described in Playford, called 'Argeers' (1650). (This is described by Cecil Sharp in *The English Country Dance Book*, Parts 3, p.51.)

FORMATION: circle of couples with man on the inside, face l.o.d (anticlockwise), hold inside hands. (Can be danced as described below as a mixer dance.)

Figure 1. A MUSIC	Bars	
	1-2	starting with outside feet (man L and woman R) walk four steps forward
,	3-4	turn to face partner, hold hands in a 'w' position and do two pas-de-bas steps in l.od. and against l.o.d.
	5-6	repeat measure 1-2 of figure 1 again along l.o.d.
	7-8	take two hands again and do a 'pancake turn' away from l.o.d Finish facing clockwise
	9-16	repeat measure 1-8 in opposite direction (clockwise)
Figure 2.		
B MUSIC	1-2	4 gallops towards centre of circle, in ballroom hold
	3-4	4 gallops away from centre of circle
	5-8	4 turning polka steps along l.o.d.
	9-12	repeat measure 1-4 of figure 2
	13-14	2 turning polka steps in l.o.d.
	15-16	partners turn away from each other. Woman turns R. with 4 steps in place, man turns L. and makes a larger circle to end one place backwards in a circle.

Start dance with a new partner.

### HORNFIFFEN

### A COUPLE DANCE FROM RANDERS, DENMARK

Formation: Couples side by side round the room facing l.o.d. Inside hands joined.

Music: 2/4 time. To the tune of Soldier's Joy.

A Music (16 bars) Starting with the outside foot (man L, woman R) dance eight *Hornfiffen* steps.

B Music (8 bars) Face partner, hands on waist. Dance 14 reel steps finishing with 3 stamps.

B Music (8 bars) Take ballroom hold and dance eight polka steps turning.

Repeat ad lib.

### Hornfiffen Step

- 1. Step diagonally forward on the R. foot
- & close L. foot behind R. foot in 3<sup>rd</sup> position
- 2. step diagonally forward on the R. foot
- & step diagonally forward on the L. foot
- 3 close R. foot behind L. foot in 3<sup>rd</sup> position
- & circle L. foot outwards and behind R foot to lower on
- 4 with a small jump on both feet.

(Step described for the woman.)

### KOKARENG ELSKA SWEDISH DANCE TO THE TUNE OF SOLDIERS' JOY

Dance for 8 couples, all the men on one side of the circle and women on the other.

- Fig. 1 (16 bars) Circle left and right (8 bars each way) with a 'one-two-three-hop' step, which is similar to a 'rant' but with heel leading. Use this step throughout the dance. Start with the left foot.
- Fig. 2 (16 bars) Circle flattens into two lines of men and women. On spot step as before but turning left shoulder to partner, with left foot leading. Man beckons with his left hand to invite his partner to come nearer. His other hand goes on his hip. Repeat on right foot with right hand beckoning. Do this 6 times and on last two bars change places with partner passing left shoulder to cross and drop back to place to the left. Repeat the movement as above and change back to original side. (Women have hands on their skirts and men ,when crossing, have thumbs tucked into their bolero arm-holes.)
- Fig. 3 (16 bars) Reels up and down lines (women's reel and men's reel), passing left shoulder first. Turn away from each person you pass. Start with the left foot. (Women have hands on their skirts and men with arms up in 'bolero hold')
- Fig. 4 (16 bars) Beckoning as Fig. 2.
- Fig. 5 (16 bars) Circle left and right as Fig. 1.

Dance presented at Eastbourne Festival in 1997 by the Sundsvalls Folkdansgille.

### MELLEM KAGEL OG AE VAEG DENMARK

(Between the Oven and the Wall)

FORMATION: 3 COUPLE LONGWAYS SET, WOMEN OPPOSITE MEN.

### A MUSIC

PART 1. (Bars 1-8) 1<sup>ST</sup> couple give right hands 'shake hands' hold and do 6 step hops turning clockwise, passing behind 2<sup>nd</sup> couple, on own sides, into middle place. 2<sup>nd</sup> couple move up set with 2 walking steps on counts 7 & 8.

Repeat of A music (8 bars). 1<sup>st</sup> couple, now in middle place, turn by the left hand and do 6 step hops, turning anti-clockwise and then 2 step hops to face, **man up** the set between 2<sup>nd</sup> couple, **woman down** set between third couple. Other couples turn to face up or down the set to stand either side of working couple.

### **B MUSIC**

PART 2. (Bars 9-16) Lines of three move away from each other with a step close step, followed by three stamps. Turn to face other way (ends of the lines turn inwards, middle person to right.) Repeat, lines approaching. 1<sup>st</sup> couple move back to their own side, in middle position. Repeat of B music (8 bars). Repeat lines away from each other, towards the walls. Turn and repeat, lines towards each other.

### **C MUSIC**

PART 3. (Bars 17-24) Ends of set join to form a circle, arms in 'w' hold, 8 step hops to left.

Repeat of C music. (8 bars) 1<sup>st</sup> couple swing through 3<sup>rd</sup> couple to bottom of the set, in ballroom hold, with 8 steps. 3<sup>rd</sup> couple move up the set to 2<sup>nd</sup> position with 4 walking steps on counts 5-8 (bars 20-24).

Repeat dance twice more with other couples each taking a turn at being the working couple at the top of the set.

### SEIERST ADHOPSA

Presented by Ingvar Sodal at Scandia Camp Hendocino, 1980.

Record: Pormation:	ormation: Longways sets. Any number of cpls. Dancers work in groups of 3 cpls. Cpl #3 in each group is		Starting position:	
	inactive. M's L hand on hip, pocket level, thumb backwards. W hold skirts	1 }	-Oı	
Steps:	Two-steps with hop throughout the dance.	2 }	-0i	
Sequence:	Always start with L ft.  1. Greeting (H #1)	31	·O:	
	2. Down the middle, opls #1 and #2 3. Return 4 abreast	11	-01	
	<ol> <li>Grand R &amp; L</li> <li>Cps #2 back in the row. Cpl #1 and #3 start the dance over again.</li> </ol>	2 +	-Oi	

1. 1 M visits 1 W, 12 W, 12 M, bowing to each in turn. (Step LRL, bow etc step LRL to place)	Greeting:
(Step LRL, bow etc step LRL to place)	> 0
Greetings:	11,
Woman: Bow head. Start with R toe in front. Describing a	) 10
half circle with toe. R ft ends up behind L. Go straight	2+
down, wt on both ft. Wt on R ft. Try to stretch L knee	3 t O 3
(moving body bkwd, keep ft in place). Wt on L ft (body	31 -03
moving (wd). R ft back in place. Raise head.	
Men: Ft together. Bow from waist, moving R hand over to	
L side of chest (heart). R hand down and raise body erect ag	zain.
L Bide of Chest (heart). A hand down and large one	,

2.Cpls #1 and #2 one step twd cntr, join hands (hand hold shown in drawing). 3 steps down the middle.	Down the middle:
3.On the last hop #1 % lifts R arm, #1 % goes under, #1 M follows without letting go hands, and all are facing up the middle. The #1 cpl is now in the middle, #2 M and W are on the sides. Return up the set, 4 abreast, with 4 steps.	2 2 2 3 1 03 Up the = 111 dle:
4. Face the cntr, Grant R & L on 8 steps. Use the last 2 steps to turn one complete turn for the #1 cpl and	2-10-1-02

- 4. Face the cntr, Grani R & L on 8 steps. Use the last 2 steps to turn one complete turn for the #1 cpl and half a turn for the #2 cpl, so that all get back to their own side.
- 5.Cpl #2 now becomes inactive. Cpls #1 and #3 start the Cp1 #2 now becomes inactive. Cp1s #1 and #9 start the dance over again.
  When #2 and #3 cp1s get up to the top of the lines, they start dancing as a new group. Cp1 #2 becomes a new #1 cp1; cp1 #3 becomes a new #2 cp1. When the dancing cp1s start on the Grand A & L, #1 K at the top starts the greetings as described for the beginning of the dance.
  When #1 cp1 comes down to the end of the line they become #2 cp1.

Start grend R&L:

10/11 2 t / D2

Presented to the SIFD at Swansen Summer School by Alix Cordray in July 1987.

Introduction - 8 bows.

### The Waltz Cotillion

First Couple Show

Crossing

( livents of 4 boos)

First Top couple waltz inside the set (eight bars).

Top ladies cross turning clockwise into opposite Top lady's position. Top men cross turning clockwise into opposite Top man's position. Side ladies cross turning clockwise into opposite Side lady's position. Side men cross turning clockwise into opposite Side man's position.

**Couples waltz Home** 

Top couples (ballroom hold) waltz across the set to original positions.

Sides likewise.

Balance & Chain

All take R. hands with partner. Balance towards and away and pass by the R.; lady turning anticlockwise under man's arm. All take L. hand with next person in chain. Balance as before and pass by the L.; lady turning clockwise under man's arm. Repeat balance and chain all round the set to return to original positions. (note: do not 'balance and chain' with partner on return to place).

Lead Around

Couples take cross-hand hold and lead around the set.

Waltz Around

Couples take ballroom hold and waltz around the set.

Second Couple Show

Second couple; being the First Sides, waltz inside the set (eight bars).

Crossing

Side ladies cross turning clockwise into opposite Side lady's position. Side men cross turning clockwise into opposite Side man's position. Top ladies cross turning clockwise into opposite Top lady's position. Top men cross turning clockwise into opposite Top man's position.

Couples waltz Home

Side couples (ballroom hold) waltz across the set to original positions.

Tops likewise.

Balance & Chain

As above.

Lead Around

As above.

Waltz Around

As above.

Third Couple Show

Third couple; being the Second Tops, waltz inside the set (eight bars).

Crossing

As above. Led by the Top ladies and men (as when First couple showed

previously).

Couples waltz Home

As above. Led by the Top couples (as when First couple showed

previously).

Balance & Chain

As above.

Lead Around

As above.

Waltz Around

As above.

Fourth Couple Show

Fourth couple; being the Second Sides, waltz inside the set (eight bars).

Crossing

As above. Led by the Side ladies and men (as when Second couple

showed previously).

Couples waltz Home

As above. Led by the Side couples (as when Second couple showed

previously).

Balance & Chain

As above.

Lead Around

As above.

Waltz Around

As above.

Free Waltz

All waltz freely round the floor.

Presented at the SIFD Burner School at Morks, by Timing McCarthy, in July 1996.

### GORT MET STROOP

country

holland

region translation noord-holland (county) barley with treacle

formation

long way set of six couples,

girls hands on waist, boys hands

clasped behind

V V V V V

123456

basic step

running step

Meas.	
1 - 16	AAAA ending position according to drawing
17 - 24	couples 1 and 6 form circle, arms T-hold 8 step-hops circle left, starting left.
25 - 32	repeat meas. 17 - 24 circle right and return to place
17 - 20	couples 2,3,4,5: 4 side-steps, according to drawing boy folds arms across in front
21 - 24	repeat meas. 17 - 20 reverse footwork and direction
25 - 32	couples 2,3,4,5 repeat meas. 17 - 24
33 <b>-</b> 36 ·	lst boy and 6th girl meet in center, girl puts hands on man's shoulders, man lifts girl high
37 - 40	lst boy and 6th girl return to place
41 - 48	repeat meas. 33 - 40 for 6th boy and 1st girl
49 - 52	couple 1 and 6 single cast to center of their own row couples 2,3,4, 5 repeat meas. 17 - 20
52 - 64	couple 2 leads the whole set in a single cast, meet at the bottom, link arms and return to places.

whole pattern repeats for couples 2 and 5 and 3 and 4

( Taught by Eddy Tijssen at Rainmakers April, 1982)

The Willow Tree

A DANCE composed by Hugh Rippon in 1968 on the occasion of his departure after seven years' enjoyable work on the staff of the EFDSS.

FORMATION: Longways whole set for eight couplés. MUSIC: Jigs, forty-eight bars, four complete tin Jigs, forty-eight bars, four complete times through.
(We give below "The News of the Victory")
Any record for the Waves of Tory or the Bridge of

Athlone is suitable.

First couple gallops down the set to the bottom man, A1 swops partner with bottom man, and gallops new woman back to top place. (Rhythmic clapping from rest of set meanwhile).

Bottom man with new woman gallops up the set to retrieve original partner, and gallops back with her

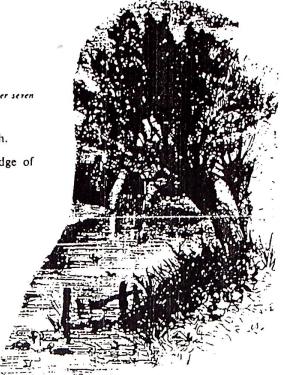
(clapping continued).
Top and bottom couples strip the willow till they meet each other in the middle of the set BI and

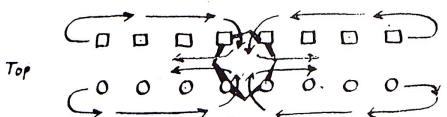
B<sub>2</sub> A3

A2

The end couples having met in the middle of the set and being on their own sides (the rest of the set must make room for them), make a four-handed arch. The others cast out, up or down, pass through the arch and lead back to place (see diagram).

**B3** Everybody swing.





Bottom

The idea for the dance is based on a well-known Dutch folk dance. It is suitable for adults or children and in any event should not be taken too seriously.

It has already been used as a demonstration plece in two schools festivals.

Get Met Stroop.

# Counting 1-7 in Danish for *Familie Sekstur*.

En (enn)

To (toe)

Tre (tray)

Fire (feer)

Fein (femm)

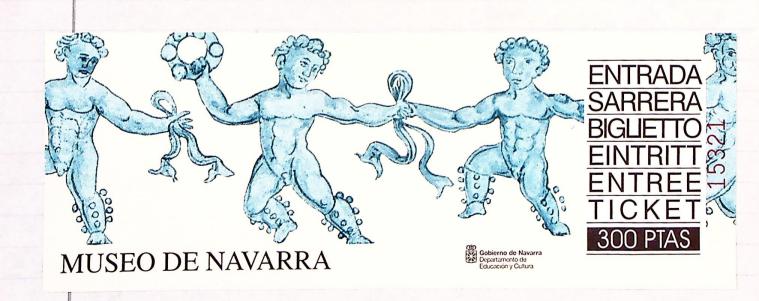
Sexs (sex)

Syv (syou)

## Holiday Souvenirs! May 15th 1998.

Curle and Graham have been to Northern Spain and brought back this "evidence" that Morris Dancing originated in Pamplona, Navarre.

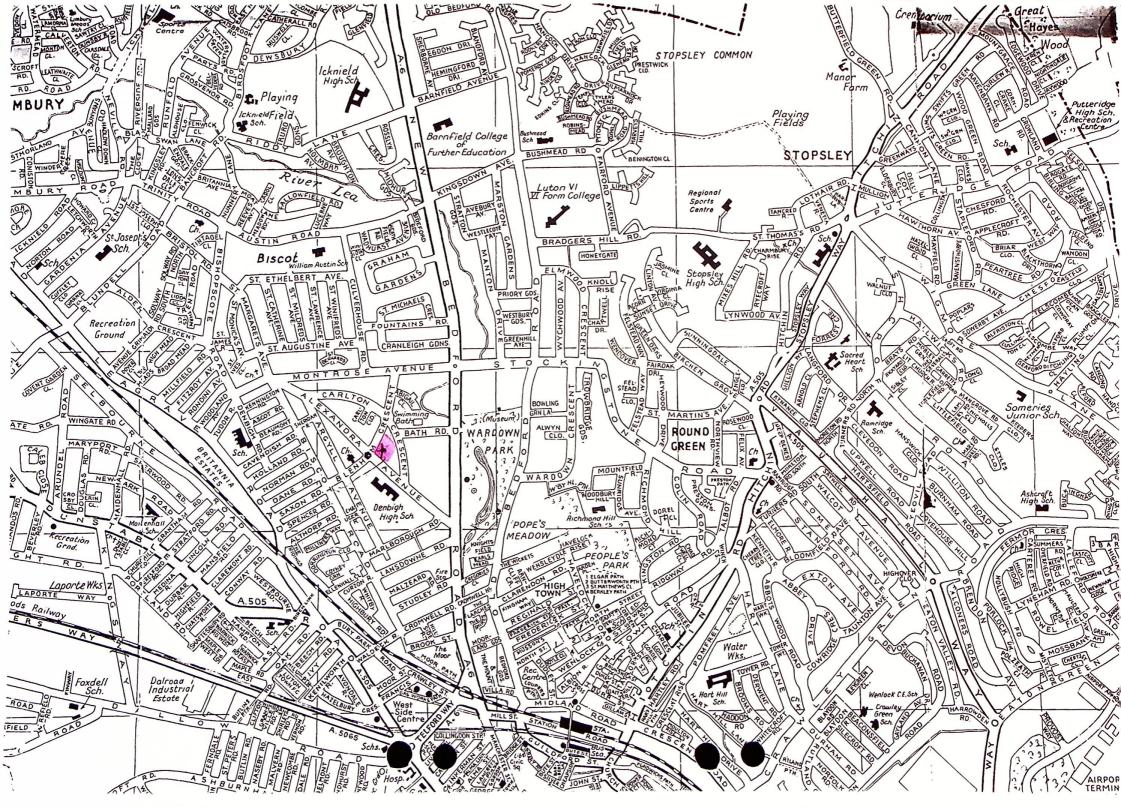






ERREGELAK

A Basque Dancer.



Monday, May 18th 1998.

Dancing with The Leesiders at Lutow.

7.45-10.00 p.m.

Till had been asked to call an evening of International dancing for the Leesiders English' dancing club at Luton. She asked whether any Kainmakers would go along too to mingle with the dancers and also give a few display dances. We were asked to be there for a 7.45p.m. Start. Martin Butler volunteered that Cloudburst Band would play for most of the dances. By the appointed time eleven Rainmakers were present, Wearing costumes of various countries and the band was setting up but not many Lesiders had arrived. However, we soon got going and more dancers came in. Till soon discovered that she had to adjust her prepared programme of interesting, simple dances as most of our hosts were elderly, Very inexperienced or incapacitated. This meant very hand work for the caller with much teaching and repeating of dances. The Rainmakers got very hot too as most of them danced everything plus the displays.

There was much laughter and the hit of the evening turned out to be the Maori Stick Dance where we all dropped our sticks

from time to time.

I'm sure The Leesiders had an evening to remember. The four Rainmakers who displayed Knews Köenig will remember it as the fastest speed at which they have ever danced it. No wonder Martin hid behind his accordion at the end!

	Leasides	Folicio	nce Oly	Ma	1 Stu May
Moi Muzen Siererstanh	lca (1	ape) tape).			
Walenki Renningen					
Russian Ly.  y Alemelul  Jesus ita en	ical. Chi hnah	M~			
Maon Stiac	Dance.				
Danih Sch Ve Danid	δlhis Ive.				
Plus. Krey K Tarané	Coening Ulu Par 1 Brach A	۱۵ )			
Sand	sociel				
		·			

## Milton Keynes International Folk Dance Festival July 5th - 7th 1998.



Vagonar, Poprad Slovakia



























Tatarata Casteltermini Sicily



The Milton Keynes International Folk Dance Festival happens at this weekend every year. There are outdoor displays, concerts on Friday, Saturday and Sunday and sometimes workshops with the foreign teams. Jill, Peter, Henry and Betty were there on Sunday.

### Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

Display program for St Vincent de Paul School Fete, 5<sup>th</sup> July 1998

Display time: 12.45pm Display duration: approximately 1 Hour

Please be on site by 12.30pm

## **Programme**

Neapolitan Tarantella	Italy	Graham Adrian Barry	Curle Sue Sheila	
Bouree Croisee	France	Barry Adrian	Maria Sue	
Steiregger	Austria	Graham Adrian Barry	Helen Sue Sheila	
Dorset 4 Hand Reel	England	Graham Adrian	Sheila Maria	
Maiezyt	Switzerland	Graham Adrian Barry	Curle Helen Sheila	
A Chula	Portugal	Graham Adrian	Curle Maria	
Appenzeller Klatschwaltzer	Switzerland	Graham Adrian Barry	Curle Sue Sheila	
Tarantella Fasola	Italy	Graham	Maria	
Bouree de la Chapelotte	France	Barry Adrian	Maria Helen	Curle Sue
Picking up Sticks	England	Graham Adrian Barry	Helen Sue Sheila	
Jota Tapatia	Mexico	Graham Adrian	Maria Sheila	
Musica Nisherat	Israel	All (This	s could be a	i join in)

### Display at St. Vincent de Paul's JMI School, Stevenage - 5th July 1998.

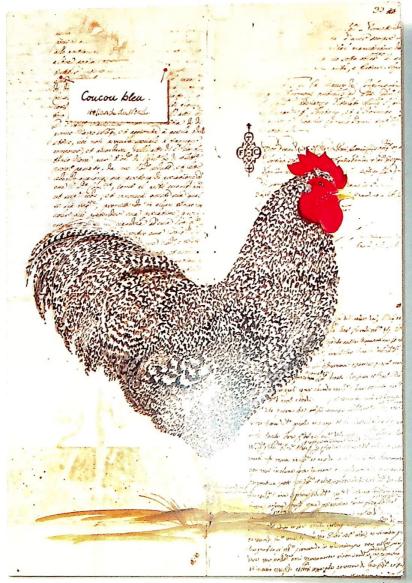
An early morning promise of a bright cloudless day did not carry over to the afternoon as Rainmakers, resplendent in Portuguese costume, began to arrive at the school for their 12.45pm display.

The afternoon events were already well under way as pupils performed an obviously well rehearsed series of Maypole dances in the area we would soon be occupying. Their efforts were even more commendable as we viewed the distractions of the adjacent stalls. On one side, A set of Stocks with Wet Sponge Throwing. alongside a Human Fruit Machine. On the other side a Barbecue stall generating the gentle aroma of cooking beef and a generous helping of smoke! We also noted the tarmac area had a noticeable slope!

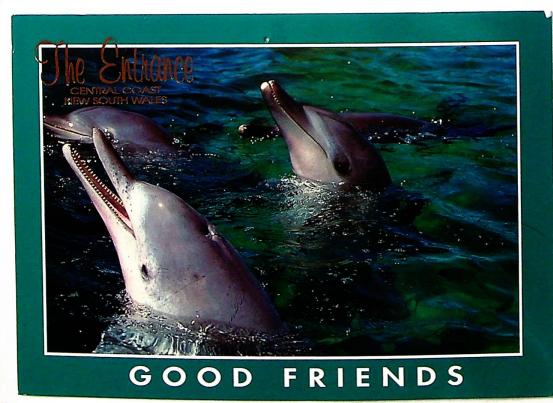
None of this affected the moral of our small but enthusiastic team as we worked our way through a display which included dances from France, Austria, Israel, & of course, Portugal. In a program which called for constant partner changes none of the three men & five Ladies were actually required to dance all twelve dances. For most a welcome respite occurred when Graham & Maria danced Tarantella Fazola to music bolstered by Curle's rhythmic tambourine shaking. It was during this spot that Maria had to produce some fancy footwork to avoid Graham's glasses which had leapt (as if by magic) from his waistcoat pocket. Unfortunately we couldn't encourage any volunteers to join in Musica Nisherat to close our display, although many did accept Rainmakers promotional handouts from Curle as she "mingled" afterwards.

The organizers seemed pleased with our performance, and even more pleased that the Rainmakers had not lived up to their name. Even though by now some large gray clouds had drifted over to obscure the sun.

Many thanks to (in alphabetical order) Adrian, Barry, Curle, Graham, Helen, Maria, Sheila & Sue.



Card from Averil Gerson ofter the death of Uni who came to Rainmakers several times to teach us I sraeli dances.



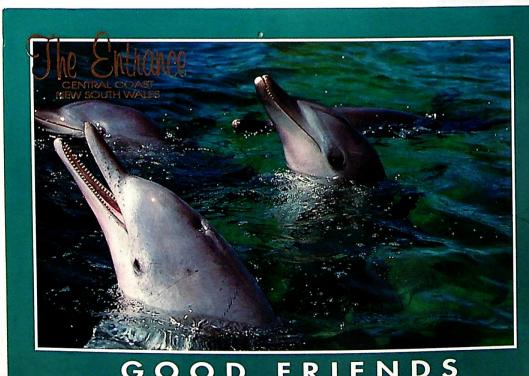
Card from Roy Bowtell enjoying a strong pound and good weather in Australia.

Close Jun 1998 Curter Clos

for your. Support over the last designatures. We very may the cards the way proud of the with the last difficult year.

The way this dealt with the Please convey my thanks for their keind thoughts. Jus Peter, Thankyou Bost wishes the Ku 200

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# End of Term Party July 24th 1998

Shor he Kinneset Little Man in a fix Tralcissa Ricenitsa Pide up Stides Tarantelle Fas Du Agir Halay. La Bourée Pastourelle Love Malo Morre Ronningen Tarantila Montevirgen Ma Navu Horle presp Maroa Walcetana Cost Met Stroop Shore Hashir Karapyet / Korobushica Lamidbat\_ Shoshanat leiman Parson's Farewell Panddas Knews Loonin Ba Radess

This was the programme for our usual end-of term party. A smaller-than-sometimes group of members and two visitors enjoyed the dancing and chatting over delicious refreshments during the interval.

Garden Evenings will be held on Friday evenings during August. A few members will meet at the S.I.F.D. Summer School in York.

## Rainmakers

#### International Folk Dance Group

#### Diary Dates for 1998

Party Evening 24th July 1998 (Dancing till 11.00pm)

#### Garden Evenings (All from 7.30pm till dark)

31 <sup>st</sup> July	Graham	The Red Lion Preston	Tel 01462 677916
7 <sup>th</sup> August	Phil & Daksha	127 High Street Meppershal	Tel 01462 813943
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Jill & Peter	Red Gables Benslow Path The Avenue Hitchin	Tel 01462 457791
21 <sup>st</sup> August	Sue & Adrian	5 Langbridge Close Hitchin	Tel 01462 459349
28 <sup>th</sup> August	Barry & Helen	55 Basils Road Stevenage (Old Town)	Tel 01438 222055

Back to St Michaels 4th September

Evening Workshops 15<sup>th</sup> September 13<sup>th</sup> October

(Radwell 8-10pm with Jill)

(Radwell 8-10pm with Jill)

Letchworth Town Display 12<sup>th</sup> September (Practice 9<sup>th</sup> September at Radwell 8-10pm)

Anniversary Dance 17<sup>th</sup> October 1998

# S. I. F. D. Summer School - York. July 28th - August 4th. 1998.

The S. I. F. D. Summer School is held biennually. This is the fourth time that it has been held at the Collège of Ripon and St. John, York, It is a popular venue as the facilities there for dancing are very good, the accommodation is comfortable and the site is convenient being only a few minutes walk away from York Minster and the city centre. Participants in the Summer School can be resident on full board or half board or live out. Some came daily from home Whilst others used their campervans, caravans or tents or stayed in Guest Houses.

this year, including a few none-dancers. The Rainmakers were represented by Jill, Peter, Michael, and Henry (dancers) and Betty (non-dancer.)

The dancers were divided into two groups called Castle and Minster. Each group had three official classes per day - one Armenian,

There were about sixty people attending

one Hungarian and the two groups came together in the large hall for the hithuanian

class, Each class lasted one and a half hours.

In addition, there were four ad hoc workshops in Japanese/Chinese dances, Italian, Israeli

and Itish Set Dance taught by participants in

the Sunner School. After dinner every evening there was a Social dance and Michael Gilbert also

led a musicians workshop. When the social

dance finished a few stalwart people repaired to the bar for an informal music making

and story telling session that went on into

the small hours of the next morning.

It is no wonder that whenever I met any of the dancers they booked more and more exhausted. They said they were enjoying themselves very much but many of the dances being taught were very strenuous ones, especially the Hungarian. By the end of the week I sometimes met people I recognised in the town playing truant!

Till has given me these photographs for

the Scrapbook.



Andras Gaal teacher of Hungarian dances.



Dalila Heath teacher of Armenian dances.



Left: Ramute Gaucaite, teacher of Lithuanian Centre: Translator from Lithuania, dances. Right: Lithuanian accordion player.



Andras teaching Hungarian dances. Note Till playing close attention.





Party night. Many people were International costumes,









Dalila performed an Armenian bride's dance, solo, for us. She is wearing her wedding dress. It was the most meniorable part of the week for me.



Kiyoshi & Miwako who taught Japanese dances and a Chinese dance.



Christina who taught Italian dances.



A late night session in the (closed) bar.

## Garden Evenings - 1998.

Amazingly, The Rainmakers did not live up to their name in this wet summer as every

Garden Evening was fine.

Unfortunately only about six people turned up to Graham's pub rendezvour at Preston on July 31st. I expect many members were on holiday. There was no dancing so, after chatting for a while, they all adjoirned to Curle's house in Baldock where, I hear, a very jolly party ensued.

The next Friday, August 7th, over thirty of us, plus some of Phil and Daksha's neighbours, danced in the countyand of their home at Meppershall. It was a beautiful warm evening and we were able to stay out-

doors until after 10.30 p.m.

Incredibly August 14th was also fine and warm. A huge number of people (more than sometimes on a club night at St. Michael's Church hall) went to Peter and Till's home in Hitchin. As usual Till had an action-packed programme and there was a lot of laughter as we dodged the trees, toiled up the hill fell down the slope or crunched on the drive. After refreshments we watched the video of the last Hitchin Gathering.

The weather the next week was more unsettled and no doubt Adrian and Sue were wondering Can I cut the grass?"
"Will they come?" But on Friday August 21st the seen shone by the afternoon and

Evening four of us had another happy evening dancing in their garden and sitting talking indoors as it got dark earlier.

Barry and Helen are relatively new members of the club and had never even been to a Garden Evening before, so it was particularly kind of them to hold the last one, on August 28th, in their garden in Stevenage. Once again the weather was dry and sunny. About twenty members went along and enjoyed themselves. Barry said he was well pleased with the event. He said that one normally expects to entertain guests but The Rainmakers entertained themselves.

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