



RAINMAKERS' SCRAPBOOK
VOLUME 18 1999-2000

Volume 18

The

Rainmakers'

Scrapbook

From

September 1999

To

August 2000

Cover picture —

Georgians

The new term began on September 3rd 1999 with the club meeting at St. Thomas of Canterbury Church Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth.

The club returned to St. Michael's Church Hall, The Broadway, Letchworth only to find that no refurbishment whatever had taken place - the relocation to another hall had been quite unnecessary!

St. Andrew's Old Folks Home, Hitchin — Sunday
19th September 1999

This has been our only display this year — what a change from the old days when we used to be in great demand. There were 10 of us (7 women and 3 men) prepared to entertain the old folks at St. Andrew's Residential Home in Hitchin. Our audience was also down compared with what it used to be: some of the residents we have seen before have died, so we had only 9 ladies and 1 man to watch us, and none of the staff. I'll tried to get some of them up for joining in dances, but with no luck until the very end when three of the ladies (including one 90-year old) were persuaded to join us in 'Setrya', done very simply with just the walking step and some winding-up of the line and forming arches. She also got them all to join in the claps for 'Appenzeller Klatschwalzer'. However they seemed to enjoy watching us and hearing about our costumes, so it ~~was~~ was well worthwhile doing the show — though we had forgotten how very hot it is there!

Isabel

P.S. Ever versatile, we are — we danced 'Zagrodnik' with 9 people, in an open 3-sided 'square' — more interesting for the audience than having a closed square!

Programme - St. Andrew's 19/9/99

Jesusita en Chihuahua

Ba Pardess

Le Branle à Six de la Chartre

Fyrtur

Bouree de la Chapelotte

Zemer Atik

Zagrodnik Tiedeliepats

Joc in Patru

Sandsvaeill

Trekarls Polska

Fadinho Tres Tempo

Appenzeller Klatschwalzer

Stepping Out

Setnja

RAINMAKERS ANNIVERSARY DANCE, September 25th, 1999.
Band: Cloudburst M.C. Jill Bransby.

Hora Hadera
Rav Brachot

Branle de Connay
Little Man in a Fix

Menousis
La Bastringue

Fadino Tres Tempos
Jota Antiqua

Kulsko Hora
Ten Chi

Mellionen
Devil's Dream

Haro'a Haketana

Le Rond Argentonais
La Bourree Pastourelle

Te'en
Inch Imanyee

Hambo
Galop Kontra

La Bourree de La Chapelotte
Mari Mariko

Tarantella Montevirgene
Harimon

Pravo Trakisko Hora

Pariser Polka
La Gavotte de Pont Aven

Ayumar Behar Hamor
Chassene

Santis Masoulke
Neapolitan Tarantella

Lludo Mlado

Ys Wals
Gort Met Stroop

Joc in Patru

Russian Lyrical
Russian Waltz

Ba Pardess

Rainmakers' 23rd Anniversary Dance.

Saturday, September 25th 1999.

Tickleford Village Hall 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

The Rainmakers always enjoy their Anniversary Dance and this year was no exception. However, for various reasons (e.g. holidays, previous engagements, illness injury and bereavement) many members were unable to attend their much anticipated annual dance. It was such a shame as I am told that the people present had a lovely time. There were 17 dancers, including 5 visitors.

Much hard work had gone into the organisation for it particularly by Graham, our Chairman, Jill who was M.C. and had prepared a popular programme, Martin, the band leader and Maria who organised refreshments.

Cloudburst played really well and sometimes members of the band sang to accompany the dancers.

It was good to see Janet Woolbar there so soon after her operation and able to dance a few times.

The hall was decorated and members wore a varied array of international costumes to make the occasion more festive.

The club members are grateful to all who worked so hard especially Jill, Graham and Maria. Let us hope that next year we have a hall crowded with dancers.

Scenes at the dance.



Neopolitan Tarantella.

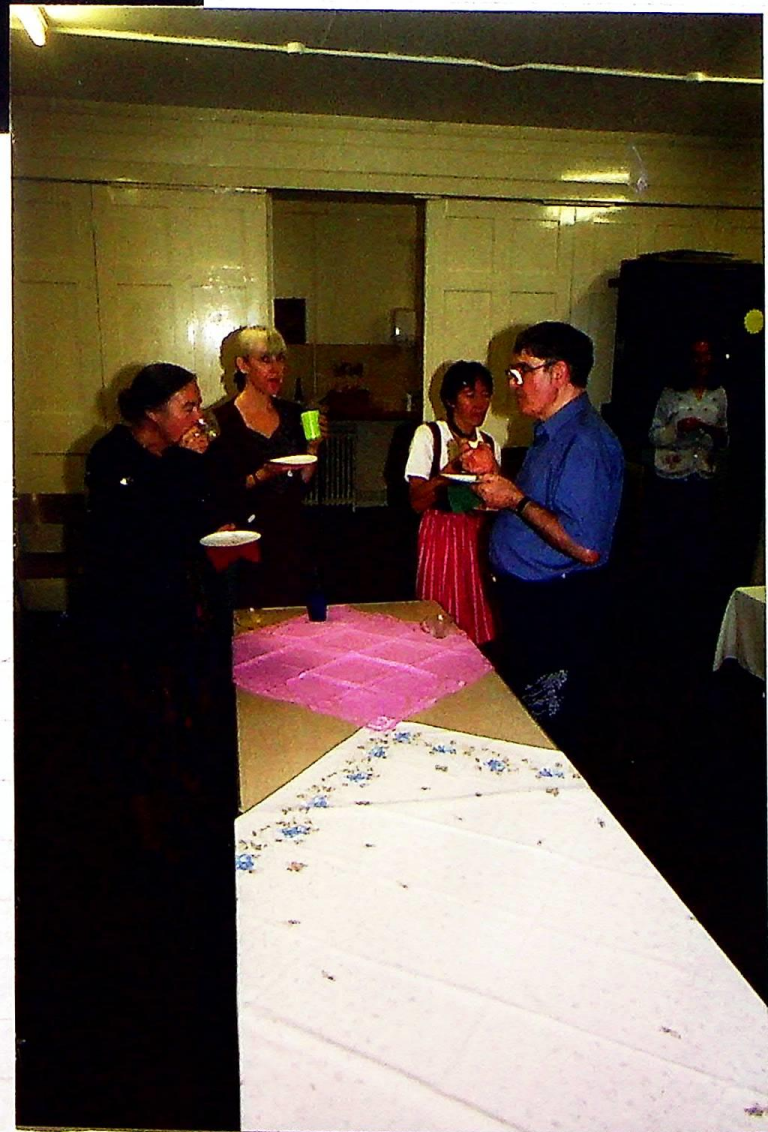


Conversation time.



Till cuts the birthday cake.

Tanet Woolbar
and Frank
Flanagan - two
honoured guests.



All photos
by Graham.

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth
on Friday 27th November 1998

The meeting opened at 08.15pm with Graham Styles in the Chair.

1 Opening Welcome

Graham opened the proceedings by welcoming everybody to the meeting and drew attention to the following points :-

- a) The meeting was being recorded and requested members to prefix any comments with their name.
- b) To record their presence on the clipboard being circulated.
- c) That members of less than 3 months standing were not eligible to vote.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from : Peter Bransby
Belinda Lansbury
Claire Steely

26 Members Present

Graham advised the meeting that an attendance of 26 members exceeded the constitutional requirement of 25% attendance of total membership (Ref Para 4.g) and declared the AGM to be valid.

3 Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Friday 5th December 1997

Graham requested members to raise points of inaccuracy.

Mark observed two points :-

- a) Treasurers Report (Para 6) made no mention of the vote of thanks and card he had presented to Richard Thom, the outgoing Treasurer.
- b) Election of Officers (Para 9) That Graham had not been nominated as Chairman prior to the meeting but was nominated from the floor on the evening.

With these two amendments Graham offered the minutes for acceptance as a true and accurate record of the clubs 1997 AGM. Proposed by Adrian seconded by Betty. Carried with no objections and one abstention.

Graham signed the minutes.

4 Matters Arising

Graham noted two matters arising :-

- 4.1 Treasurers report Referring to a typographical error in the 1996/7 audited accounts with an action against Richard Thom. Graham read out a letter from Richard, received following an invitation for him to attend the meeting. In it Richard stated that he had forgotten the action and expressed surprise that committee had not contacted him earlier in the year. Graham confirmed that committee had not progressed this action and proposed that as it was now 12 months on, little benefit would be gained by attempting to progress it further. The meeting agreed. Closed.

4 **Matters Arising (continued)**

- 4.2 **Weekly Charges & Annual Subscriptions** Referring to a "Two Tier" annual subscription with an action against the new committee to consider. Graham confirmed that this matter had been discussed and a decision not to propose any changes had been reached. There being no further input the action was closed.

No further matters were raised

5 **Secretaries Report**

Curle presented the following account of the clubs activities for the period from 1st September 97 to 31st August 98.

"During the year we have been asked back to dance at Pirton and St Andrews Nursing homes, and of course the Hitchin Gathering which will be remembered this year not only for our wonderful Portuguese costumes and sunshine but because sadly it was the last Gathering for the foreseeable future.

Other events included the North Herts Festival where we danced outside at Standalone Farm while later on in September Roy Bowtell led the dancing at Helen's birthday party, which was a lot of fun. A team led by Belinda performed at Knights Templar school and Jill choreographed an evening of Scandinavian dances for the Hinxworth Woman's Institute appropriate for a winters night. In May we went to Luton to dance with the Leesiders and in July we donned our Portuguese costumes again to attend a fete at St Vincent de Paul's school Stevenage. Thanks to Graham we all had a good time and so did the audience.

As always our own parties and celebrations were fun and our 21st Anniversary Dance was, I am told, a great success.

In December we hosted the SIFD Sunday dance and continued the holiday celebrations with our own Christmas party, finally joining Staplers on January 1st to welcome in the new year.

In April an Irish set dance workshop was held which proved so successful it has given rise to monthly meetings at Radwell

We said goodbye to St Michael's after our end of term party in July and had had five weeks of garden parties. A "thank you" to all those who organized and hosted these evenings, they are so nice because we get a chance to let our hair down. Thanks again. In life it seems that as one door closes another opens. Sadly Uri Gerson a supporter and regular visitor to the club died, he will be remembered with fondness for the support he gave and the dances he taught. On a happier note we learned that Terry Reid and Patricia had tied the knot, we wish them well.

As you know I will be stepping down as secretary and would like to thank the members of Rainmakers for allowing me the perks of the job. You didn't think there were any did you ? But I got to shop, which I was born to do, to wrap presents and to bully and cajole you.....Mothering I think its called, and every Friday evening I could stand here and have you listen to me. It's been great ... To the new committee , good luck and God bless."

Graham thanked Curle for her comprehensive report.

6 Treasurers Report

6.1 Introduction

Prior to the Treasurers Report Graham made the following points :-

- a) The accounts were to be presented in a totally revised format which committee hoped would make them clearer and easier to understand.
- b) For organizations with low financial turnovers an accountable auditor is no longer required, the task is undertaken by an independent examiner. The minutes would reflect this change. Isabel presented further clarification of the change in legislation.
- c) Due to an oversight relating to the clubs Financial Year Barry had been required to make some last minute changes to the accounts. As Chairman Graham accepted responsibility for the situation. Regrettably Bill Thorn was on holiday and as such the accounts were to be presented, unexamined. The meeting presented no objection.

6.2 Presentation of Accounts

Barry presented the accounts and invited questions from the floor.

6.3 Mark asked if figures for the p^eceeding year could be added to highlight changes in income and expenditure. Barry agreed to investigate the possibility for the 1998/99 accounts. Barry

6.4 Adrian asked if an entry for "equipment fund" had been omitted deliberately. Barry replied that all the clubs assets had been presented "as one" in the interest of simplicity but would investigate the possibility of listing an amount under that heading for the 1998/99 accounts. Barry

6.5 On the subject of capital outlay on large items like the Coomber Tape Player Jill observed that previously the club had been successful in obtaining funds from the Letchworth Heritage Foundation (as it is now). Barry replied that he had no objection to anyone making such an application on behalf of the club.

6.6 There being no other questions Barry offered the accounts for acceptance as a true and accurate record of the clubs financial situation on the understanding that they would be examined by Bill as soon after the AGM as practically possible. Proposed Adrian seconded Janet. Carried with no objections and no abstentions.

7 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Barry advised the meeting that Bill Thorn was prepared to act as the clubs independent examiner for the year 1998/9. Helen proposed Bill's appointment, which was seconded by Curle. Carried with no objections and no abstentions.

Chairman's Comments8.1 General

Graham opened his comments by stating that following his election as Chairman his initial objectives had been to :-

- a) Maintaining the expected level of club activities.
- b) To increase the number of active club members.

Stating that he was personally satisfied with the level of success in meeting the first objective Graham went on to offer votes of thanks to all those who had supported the club over the last 12 months. Not in any order of priority :-

Barry as Treasurer

Sheila as Publicity Officer

Maria as Wardrobe Mistress and Catering Coordinator

Jill as Dance mistress and choreographer

Betty for maintaining the scrapbook

Clare for bringing the SIFD shop to Rainmakers on many Fridays.

And members who have acted as "Guest Callers" on Friday evenings.

To Curle and Isabel as Committee members who were standing down Graham offered a special vote of thanks :-

To Curle in her role as secretary and events coordinator.

To Isabel as committee member who took responsibility for maintaining the callers rota and looking after the club posters.

He said they would both be greatly missed as both had worked hard and stimulated committee meetings with their own particular and unique personalities.

Graham concluded his thanks by addressing all those members who had supported the club by performing numerous random, non-specific tasks.

8.2 Advertising & Recruitment

Under this heading Graham observed that arguably the only reason for general club publicity was to attract new members. Stating that the most common form of advertising was Passive (ie posters, adverts in magazines etc). Regrettably even after a 12 months publicity campaign in Unicorn and Puddingstone the current committee could present no evidence to suggest that this has had any effect in terms of attracting new members. As a result he recommend that new committee considers very carefully any proposal to invest further club funds in passive advertising. This recommendation did not apply to opportunities for free advertising in listings magazines or databases.

Secondly Graham referred to Active Advertising (Dance displays at local schools, fetes, town centers etc.). Stating that like passive advertising committee could present no evidence to suggest it attracted new members. He went on to observe however that for those involved it did tend to improve technique, promote personal investment in costume and act as a bonding activity. Also it normally attracted a donation to club funds. He therefore recommended that the new committee take a positive but considered attitude to requests for displays.

Finally Graham cited Personal contact advertising, letting friends and colleagues know of Rainmakers activities. Stating that committee believed this to be the most effective form of advertising and recommend that the new committee took a positive approach to any suggestions that could promote personal contact advertising. He concluded by urging members to go out and tell their friends about Rainmakers, or better still to bring them along.

8.3 Workshops

Graham stated that despite poor support for “In-House” workshops over the past 12 months he recommended that the new committee continue to arrange occasional special Friday evening workshops with invited teachers and also that they provide at least one “all day” Saturday workshop.

8.4 Costume

Graham observed that the club (in the person of Maria) currently held a quantity of little used costume, and parts of costume. Following discussion within committee he proposed that some (as yet unspecified) items be offered for sale to members.

Graham concluded his comments by thanking members for their attention.

9 Election of Officers

Graham read out the nomination received to date :-

Office	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Graham Styles	Isabel Lamont	Sheila Leavy
Treasurer	Barry O’Sullivan	Janet Purdy	Adrian Barter
Member	Sheila Leavy	Phil Trivedi	Daksha Trivedi
Member	Katka Kessler	Claire Steely	Janet Purdy

(There was no nomination for the office of secretary)

Graham expressed his disappointment at members apparent expectation that club activities would continue at the same level while the number of people serving on committee fell.

Graham asked if there were any further nomination from the floor - there were none.

Graham offered the nominee’s, as read, for election “on block”.

Proposed Curle, seconded Moya, there were no objections and no abstentions

10 Any Other Business

10.1 Guests Attending Friday Evenings

Graham read out Paragraph 3 d) of the constitution as follows :-

“Non members may attend club meetings or events as guests of the club on such terms and conditions as the committee may decide”.

For future reference Graham asked the meeting for their interpretation of this statement, particularly in relation to a guests age and frequency of attendance.

Following a lively discussion Graham stated that he felt he had enough feedback to accurately gauge the feeling of members and would assimilate them into a statement that would express the spirit in which paragraph 3 d) should be interpreted.

Note. Following the meeting Graham distilled members comments into what he believed to be an accurate interpretation of their feelings :-

10.2 “Non members may attend club meetings or events as guests of the club. Where guests are below the age of membership their attendance, whether dancing or not, shall not disrupt the clubs business or activity. It is not intended that a guest of any age shall attend club meetings or events on a continuous basis”.

Any Other Business (continued)

10.3 Insurance

Citing a recent occasion where a visiting caller had suffered the theft of equipment from their car Janet questioned the extent of Rainmakers insurance cover. Barry replied that the club carried SIFD insurance via Richard Thom and would clarify the situation with him.

Barry

10.4 SIFD Membership

Henry voiced the opinion that the club should do more to promote membership of the SIFD, an opinion supported by Jill as the Letchworth / Hitchin area qualified for Country Membership. Graham agreed to promote SIFD dances and workshops on Friday evenings.

Graham

10.5 Anniversary Dance

Mark expressed his disappointment that during the Anniversary dance Jill had not received a token of thanks for acting as MC while Daksha and her friend Daksha had both received flowers as a token of thanks for organizing and teaching the Indian Dance cabaret. Stating that in his opinion some other token would have been appropriate to account for Jill & Peter's flight to America the next day. Jill stated that Graham had thanked her during the evening and that the good attendance at the dance was thanks enough.

10.6 Friday Workshops

Mark asked why Fiona How^{er}th had not been invited to teach at a Friday evening workshop recently even though he knew she had expressed an interest in doing so. Graham drew Mark's attention to his recommendation under Chairman's Comments that Friday evening workshops should be arranged and that an action for the new committee to action them already existed.

10.7 Short Audio Tapes

Referring to the club's 30 short music tapes, Isabel expressed the opinion that they had been a great success and asked if a further 30 could be produced. Graham agreed to raise the subject in committee and asked if Isabel would assist in the selection of 60 ~~tunes~~ ^{dances} if the project was agreed. Isabel said she would.

Graham

There being no other business Graham thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.15pm.

Friday, November 26th 1999.

Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting

After a short spell of dancing, the meeting opened at 8.15 p.m. with Graham in the chair. Graham welcomed everyone and made a few comments including the statement that as 20 people were present out of a paid-up membership of 41 members we had a quorum and the meeting could proceed.

Two more members arrived. Apologies for absence were received from Chris, Charles and Daksha.

Everyone had received copies of the Minutes of last year's A.G.M. Graham went swiftly through them, correcting several typing / spelling errors and asking that comments on monetary matters i.e. 6(3) 6(4), 6(6) be left until the Treasurer had made his report. The capital outlay on equipment for mini-discs would be referred to later he said.

Other Matters Arising were: -

- 8 (4) No progress had been made in the sale of club costumes.
- 10 (3) The club's insurance cover extended to club equipment being carried in a member's car.
- 10 (4) S. I. F. D. events and membership had been promoted on Friday evenings.
- 10 (7) More short audio tapes were being prepared. Katka was choosing the dances to go on them.

Graham said he was waiting to see how the Staplers Country Dance Club were getting on with using mini C.D's, before considering whether the Rainmakers should use them. Henry pointed out that Frank Flanagan could also be consulted as he uses them for the S.I.F.D.

The Secretary's Report was the next item on the agenda. Sheila gave us a comprehensive report on the club's activities during the past year. She said that though the club had been less involved in group displays than in past years, a good many other events had happened. She mentioned Saturday workshops, visiting teachers on Friday evenings, parties, dances and Garden Evenings. The one big display of dancing which we had been asked to do, at Lakenheath, was cancelled because their funding had been withdrawn. The club missed having no Gathering to prepare for this year.

The Treasurer's Report came next. Barry, our treasurer, looking very embarrassed, apologised that he could not give his report. The accounts were not ready as the appointed Examiner of Accounts had gone on holiday having handed the accounts back to Barry unexamined, two days ago. Richard Thom had stepped in and worked on them but there were

some errors of presentation to be adjusted but it could not be done in time for the A.G.M. Barry said "All your money is there, in the Bank, accounted for but we shall have to have an E.G.M. when I can present the Balance Sheet to you".

It was agreed that this could be done and Barry was warmly thanked for his efforts on our behalf throughout the year. As Henry said "It is not an easy job and it is time consuming".

The appointment of a new Independent Examiner of Accounts will be left to the E.G.M.

Graham then rose to give his Chairman's Report.

He began by thanking his committee members, Sheila, Barry and Katka for their support and work for the club. Jill was given special thanks for being "dancing mistress" and leading the dancing on most Friday evenings and at dances. Maria, though not on committee, has done much hard work as Wardrobe Mistress and Catering Officer, Claire brings along the S.I.F.D. Shop, Members who call on occasional Friday club meetings, Martin who brings the Squash, Betty who writes the Scrapbook and all who help the club in various ways were all thanked.

Graham then commented that efforts to bring in more members by advertising and holding "Bring a Friend" evenings had

not been successful so he suggested that the club should join the Hetchworth Arts and Leisure group.

More workshops and day courses, open to all, will be held next year.

Remarking that there had been a huge financial loss on the Anniversary Dance because of very low attendance by club members he said that the new Committee should take a very cautious approach to organising an Anniversary Dance next year - even considering whether members want a dance at all.

Changing the subject, Graham urged members to accept invitations to give dancing displays as this is good publicity besides being fun and helping others.

The new committee was announced:-

Chairman :- Graham Styles

Secretary :- Sheila Leavy

Treasurer :- vacant (Barry is retiring)

Committee member :- Katka Kessler.

Here was a dilemma! The club must legally have an official treasurer in order to exist. No-one was willing to do the job until Peter gallantly offered to be the treasurer on a temporary basis. It is hoped that by the Extraordinary General Meeting to be held in January to discuss the accounts, a permanent treasurer will be found.

We then moved on to Any Other Business. Isabel said that the club will be 25 years old in the year 2001. She wondered whether it would be an opportune time to have some new club tee-shirts. The new committee will investigate the idea.

Adrian raised the question of the loss on the Anniversary Dance. We were told that it was £106. There was discussion as to why the figure was so high and the attendance so low. The cost of the band was mentioned - a special reduced rate of £80 instead of Cloudburst's usual fee of £200+. The size and cost of hall, choice of date were considered. It is to be left to the committee to arrange something less ambitious next year.

Peter said that the lack of new young members was the club's main worry. Ideas for recruitment were again put forward.

Betty asked that the secretary record her thanks to people who gave photographs and wrote reports on dancing events for the Scrapbook.

There being no other business, the meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

Dancing followed until about 10.10 p.m.

Friday, December 17th, 1999
Christmas Party - Requests

Ambel Dageets.
Tzadik Katamar
La Bastringue
Ashrei Ma'lish
Reiach Duda'im
Gort Met Stroop
Hambo
Pravo Trakizsko Horo
Branle à Six de la Châtre.
Little Man in a Fix
Dorset Four Hand Reel
Hora Femeilor
Tarantella Fasola
Hava Nagila
Trekars Polska
Joc in Patru
Karapyet / Korobushka
Horlepup
Sepastia Bar
Neopolitan Tarantella
Pandelas
Aymar Behar Hamor
Rennigen
Inch Imanhayee
Maple Leaf Rag
Tarantella Montevergine
Hora Hadera

Extras. {
Ba Pardess
Mellionen
Levi Jackson's Rag
Hashual

It was party time again at Rainmakers. Jill prepared a programme of requested dances. Many of these were played for us on his accordion by Martin Butler ~~boy~~ of Cloudburst Band. It made for an odd mixture of dances but it kept people on the floor from 8pm till 11pm.

There was a splendid turnout of members, mostly wearing an international costume to add to the festive scene. An attendance of thirty-two members is very encouraging for the club after the low numbers at recent evenings and the Anniversary Dance.

During the evening we broke for refreshments organised by Maria. We also took the opportunity to thank Jill, our president and dancing teacher, for all the work she does for the club throughout the year, by giving her a Christmas present.

Saturday, January 1st. 2000 .

New Year Party at Letchworth, 7.30 - 11.00p.m.

Even though many people had been celebrating the start of the new millenium until the small hours of January 1st, fifty people went to a party at the Central Methodist Church Hall Letchworth. This was organised jointly by the Staplers (English Dancing Club) of Hitchin and the Rainmakers. Jill was due to lead the international dancing but she was laid low by 'flu so Alan Tranquar stepped into the breach at the eleventh hour.

An evening of dancing and games was enjoyed by all present.

(In my bag were the following:

candle + base

American Wild Flower Calendar

Pen with my name on.

Norfolk Punch

Shower gel.

THANK YOU.

To The Rainmakers,

Thank you all very much for
your generous Christmas presents
that you presented to me at
the end of term party and
especially for your good wishes

Jill

Letter of thanks from Jill re Christmas 1999.

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

Dear Henry & Betty

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary
General Meeting of the Rainmakers International
Folk Dance Group will take place on :-

Friday 25th February

in St. Michael's Church Hall, Starting at 8.00pm

Agenda

- 1) Welcome & Opening Comments
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Presentation of 1997/8 Accounts
- 4) Presentation of 1998/9 Accounts
- 5) Annual Subs & Friday Charges
- 6) Appointment of Independent Examiner
for 1999/2000

Advance Notice - Rainmakers Anniversary Dance
on Friday 13th October - St. Michael's Hall -
Jacob's ladder to play + Cost £4.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1997-98

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			<u>INCOME</u>		
<u>1996/97</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1997/98</u>	<u>1996/97</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1997/98</u>
822.00	Hire of Hall	805.50	936.00	Weekly subscriptions (1)	867.00
31.98	Tapes, instructions, videos etc	7.98	-	Donation	7.00
30.78	Squash	26.59			
-	Callers etc expenses (2)	15.00			
14.05	Slipstop	-			
21.99	Miscellaneous	30.12			
		885.19			874.00
		-----			-----
	<u>EVENTS</u>			<u>EVENTS</u>	
167.00	Anniversary dance	199.91	168.00	Anniversary dance	214.00
57.99	Day course	160.50	58.45	Day course	184.35
39.00	Hire of hall - workshops	24.00	20.00	Displays	112.00
63.00	Hire of hall - practises	102.00	40.50	Workshops	-
15.00	Gathering expenses	4.50	4.60	Joint Staplars dance (3)	-
3.20	Tambourine/Costume items	5.95			
9.55	Miscellaneous expenses	1.00			
		497.86			510.35
		-----			-----
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	
23.30	SIFD affiliation fee/donation	29.30	61.50	Annual subscriptions	114.00
53.07	Insurance	58.32	9.03	Interest	19.50
15.44	Postage	24.66			
7.00	Phone (5)	1.50			
3.30	Stationery etc.	13.01			
3.60	Newsletters	-			
16.00	Adverts	58.00			
1.97	Scrapbook	3.48			
3.30	Miscellaneous expenses	-			
		188.27			133.50
		-----			-----
	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>			<u>EQUIPMENT</u>	
33.11	Single tapes & instruction manual	-			
42.30	Equipment repair	-			
		-----			-----
1477.93		1571.32	1298.08		1517.85
			179.85	Excess of expenditure over income	53.47
			1477.93		-----
					1571.32

1298.08	Net Income	1517.85
1477.93	Net Expenditure	1571.32
-----		-----
(179.85)	Excess of income over expenditure	(53.47)
1134.39	Balance brought forward	954.54
-----		-----
954.54	Balance carried forward	901.07
-----		-----

52.75	Cash in hand	170.65
901.79	Bank	730.42
-----		-----
954.54		901.07
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance)

234.61	Balance brought forward	159.20
NIL	Events Profit	12.49
-----		-----
234.61		171.69
75.41	Purchases/Repairs	-----
-----		-----
159.20	Balance carried forward	171.69
-----		-----
954.54	Balance	901.07
159.20	Equipment Fund	171.69
-----		-----
795.34	Working Capital	729.38
-----		-----

See note 6.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 1998-99RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

<u>EXPENDITURE</u>			<u>INCOME</u>		
<u>1997/98</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1998/99</u>	<u>1997/98</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>	<u>1998/99</u>
805.50	Hire of Hall (8)	932.00	867.00	Weekly subscriptions (7)	896.00
7.98	Tapes, instructions, videos etc	37.98	7.00	Donation (9)	1.17
26.59	Squash	31.59			
15.00	Caller's etc expenses	18.48			
-	Slipstop	7.45			
30.12	Miscellaneous	18.62			
		1046.12			897.17
	<u>EVENTS</u>			<u>EVENTS</u>	
199.91	Anniversary dance	180.00	214.00	Anniversary dance	210.00
160.50	Day course	85.00	184.35	Day course	63.80
24.00	Hire of hall - workshops	12.00	112.00	Displays	40.00
102.00	Hire of hall - practises (3)	48.00	-	Workshops (10)	7.00
4.50	Gathering expenses	-	-	Donations (11)	14.00
5.95	Costume items	-			
1.00	Miscellaneous expenses	20.62			
		345.62			278.80
	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>	
29.30	SIFD affiliation fee/donation	29.30	114.00	Annual subscriptions (12)	138.00
58.32	Insurance	58.81	19.50	Interest	12.44
24.66	Postage (14)	3.20	-	Unicorn advert refund (13)	18.00
1.50	Phone (15)	-			
13.01	Stationery etc.	15.75			
58.00	Adverts	-			
3.48	Scrapbook	4.67			
		111.73			150.44
-----		-----	-----		-----
1477.93		1503.47	1517.85		1400.41
			53.47	Excess of expenditure over income	103.06
			-----		-----
			1571.32		1503.47

1517.85	Net Income	1400.41
1571.32	Net Expenditure	1503.47

(53.47)	Excess of income over expenditure	(103.06)
954.54	Balance brought forward	901.07

901.07	Balance carried forward	798.01

170.65	Cash in hand	231.73
730.42	Bank	566.28

901.07		798.01

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance)

159.20	Balance brought forward	171.69
12.49	Events Profit	NIL

171.69		171.69
NIL	Purchases/Repairs	NIL

171.69	Balance carried forward	171.69

901.07	Balance	798.01
171.69	Equipment Fund	171.69

729.38	Working Capital	626.32

Notes attaching to and forming part of the accounts

In preparing these notes all assumptions, where indicated, have been agreed with the Chairman or outgoing Treasurer.

1. 43 weeks with an average attendance of 20.16.
2. It has been assumed that Jacobs Ladder were paid travelling expenses for the Christmas Party in December 1997.
3. The minutes show that Barry was asked to send Staplers a cheque for 50% of the loss i.e. £6.90. Unfortunately, no cheque was issued. Graham did not reimburse Staplers in cash and they have not pursued this amount.
4. 4 @ £1.50 and 36 @ £3.
5. Apart from my telephone claim for period up to the 1997 AGM, no one else has made a claim. I am unhappy with this item.
6. The erroneous figures on the 1996/97 accounts have been corrected, in accordance with the 1998 AGM minutes.
7. 44 weeks with an average attendance of 20.36.
8. Includes the payment of two returnable deposits of £50 for Wilbury and St Thomas halls due back in September 1999, which will show up in the accounts for 1999/2000.
9. This was due to a missing name on the subscription sheet and an expense claim not being taken in full.
10. This is an assumption. The minutes show 7 people attended the workshop on 15 September 1998. The workshop on 13 October 1998 was also an Indian dance practice. It is assumed that no money was taken. Again, the minutes show that 12 people attended this second workshop
11. These are the donations made by Jill from her Irish workshops. The club's squash was used. The entry has been made here to distinguish it from the Friday night donations.
12. 46 members @ £3.
13. It appears that the Unicorn advert in the previous year was overpaid.
14. This seems very low. I am also not happy with this it.
15. I do not believe that no telephone calls were claimed for. I am not happy with this item.

Friday, 25th February 2000.

Extraordinary General Meeting.

Following matters explained at the Annual General Meeting on November 27th 1999, it was necessary to hold an Extraordinary General Meeting. Twenty members were present at 8.00 p.m. - and a few more arrived during the meeting. Several apologies for absence were received.

As the accounts for the previous two years had not been fully presented or audited, these had been studied by the new auditor, Richard Thom, in consultation with the then treasurer, Barry O'Sullivan and the temporary acting treasurer, Peter Bransky.

Both sets of accounts had been distributed and Richard went through them and explained the present financial situation of the club.

Several points arose:-

- 1) The Equipment Fund is now shown separately from the General Fund.
- 2) In view of the large losses made on the last two Anniversary Dances it has been decided by the committee, that the Anniversary Dance 2000 will be held in St. Michael's Hall on Friday, 13th October 2000, and the cost will be £4. Jacob's Ladder Band will play - 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.
- 3) It will not be necessary to raise the annual or weekly subscriptions.

Before closing the meeting, Graham, in the

chair, ^{said} that he would not be standing as
Chairman at the next A.G.M. so members
might like to be thinking who they would
nominate as their next Chairman.

Saturday, April 1st, 2000

Rainmakers' Day Course, 11.00 a.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Maggie O'Reagan, of the S.I.F.D. came to Radwell Village Hall on Saturday last, to teach the Rainmakers a selection of dances from the Eastern European region.

I am told that there were twenty-one two dancers present in the morning and sixteen in the afternoon as some people had to leave at lunchtime. These numbers included two non-Rainmaker visitors. The hall is pleasant but small but it proved to be just right for these people to dance in comfort. All went very well and Rainmakers told me how much they enjoyed it. The dances were interesting, varied but not exhausting.

Programme:-

GYOVAND	ARMENIA
HORA DE LA BOTENI	ROMANIA
VOSLE SADU	RUSSIA
DRYANOVSKA RĂCENICA	BULGARIA
VALLE DARDHARE	ALBANIA
TRIPATOS	GREECE

At the end of the afternoon thanks were expressed to Maggie and to the organisers, Graham and Maria.

Christian  Aid

International Dance

Saturday July 1st

7:30 - 10:00



at URC Church Cuttys Lane

Adults £3:50 Concessions £1:50

Demonstrations

The
 **CORNERSTONE
BAR**

Dances to join in



Adrian and Graham dancing the
Ox Dans. (Sweden)

The audience is amused.

Christian Aid evening, Saturday 1 July 2000

When the Steverage Christian Aid committee were considering possible fund-raising events, one of the representatives from the United Reformed Church recalled the evening a few years ago, when the Rainmakers had done a 'joining-in' evening at the church, and how enjoyable it had been. So the Rainmakers were approached to run an international dance in aid of Christian Aid, to be held at the URC in Cutty's Lane.

Unfortunately the date chosen, Saturday 1st July, clashed with the concert at Milton Keynes folk festival which some Rainmakers wanted to attend, and Jill was not available, but Graham agreed to act as caller and 7 other Rainmakers went along in costume to support him.

The organisers of the evening had not managed to sell as many tickets as they had hoped — only about 30 folks turned up — but it was enough, with the Rainmakers, to fill the floor and everyone was eager to join in — no coaxing was required. During the evening the Rainmakers did 3 display dances — Swedish Schottische, Ox Dance (Graham and Adrian), and Neapolitan Tarantella — which were well received.

Although the event was less successful as a fund-raiser than had been hoped, it could be considered a social success. As someone said to me the next morning, "It was a fun evening."

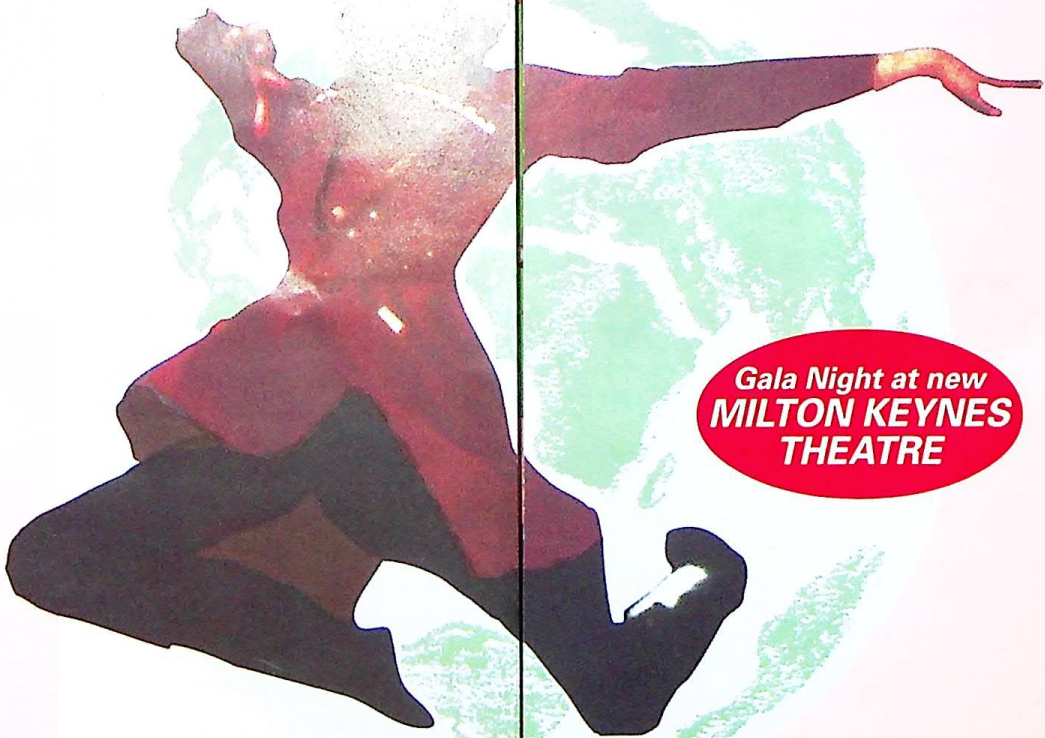
Isabel

MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL - 2000

10th Anniversary Year

30 June
to
2 July

Three days of
spectacular dance
music and song



Gala Night at new
**MILTON KEYNES
THEATRE**

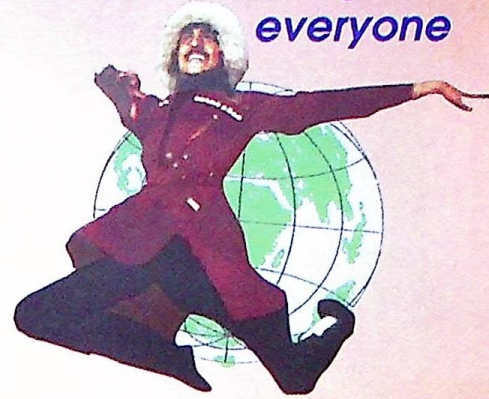
The International Festival for an International City

Gala concert held this year in the new Milton Keynes Theatre.

MILTON KEYNES INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

10th Anniversary Year 2000

Spectacular dance
music and song for
everyone



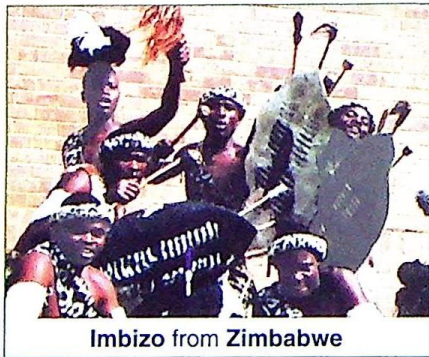
from around the world

IMBIZO

Stantonbury Campus Theatre
7.30 Sunday 2nd July

* **ZIMBABWE**

Imbizo visit Milton Keynes as part of their UK tour. The complete African experience. Exciting dance to the beat of drums and distinctive African harmonies.



Imbizo from Zimbabwe

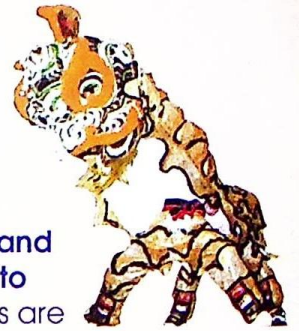
GRAND GALA NIGHT

Milton Keynes Theatre

7.30 Saturday 1st July

GEORGIA * HOLLAND * NORTH CYPRUS

Dazzling fast-moving dance action, colourful costume, music and song, plus Georgian choir and Chinese Lions. This year we are proud to move to the new Milton Keynes Theatre. Our Gala Nights are always very popular, so book early.



Choral Afternoon

Stantonbury Campus Theatre
2.30 Sunday 2nd July

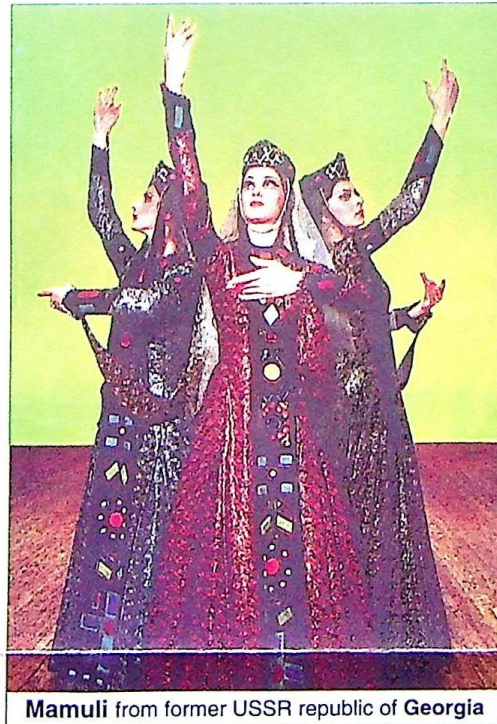
GEORGIA * ENGLAND

Georgian choir Merani join with Milton Keynes Youth Choir

Welcome Night

Lovat Hall, Newport Pagnell
8.00 Friday 30th June

Your chance to meet our guests from Georgia, Holland and Cyprus in an informal social setting, with opportunities to see and join in their dances.



Mamuli from former USSR republic of Georgia

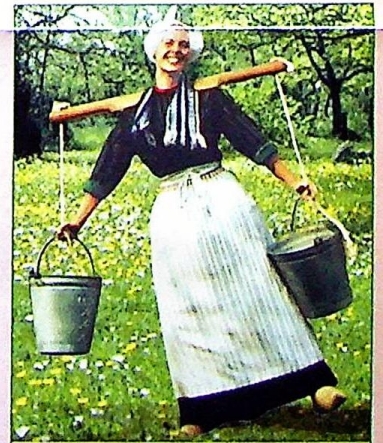
Festive Saturday

Newport Pagnell Town Centre
Milton Keynes Theatre Square

Saturday 1st July

To open Newport Pagnell's Festive Fortnight, our overseas visitors will mingle with local dancers for a morning's entertainment.

At 6.00 there will be dance displays outside MK Theatre.



Paloina from Holland

Cultural Threads

Arts Workshop Trust

Exciting exhibition of textiles influenced by international styles and cultural differences.

The exhibition combines textile pieces developed through community workshops with traditional costumes provided by the festival's visiting performers.

Local touring venues will include
MK Theatre foyer • 1 July
Stantonbury Campus Gallery • 2 July
Courtyard Arts Centre • 4-8 July

Details: 01908 608108
info@artsworkshop.co.uk



SUPPORTED BY
THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
THROUGH
THE ARTS COUNCIL
OF ENGLAND



Festival information and tickets - 01908 610564

Saturday, July 1st. 2000

International Festival at Milton Keynes.

Whilst some Rainmakers were dancing at the Christian Aid Dance in Stevenage, other Rainmakers were in Milton Keynes for the International Gala Concert. This year it was held in the new Milton Keynes Theatre. (built with lottery money.) The theatre is very large, posh, ^{air conditioned;} comfortable with lifts to all floors but the seats cost twice the price that they used to do in small, local venues.

Teams from Georgia, Holland and North Cyprus were due to perform. Before the show began we were told that two weeks ago the people from Cyprus said that they could not come. The frantic organisers managed to find a Turkish team as a substitute. On June 30th the Turks phoned to say they had not got their visas and would not be appearing.

However, on came a Dutch band and a large team called Polovina from Holland. They said that they usually do Balkan dancing and only do Dutch dances when they are abroad. They wore costumes from all over Holland. It was interesting to see the village variations. They were very professional and performed a long, choreographed sequence of dances. It was fun to pick out dances familiar to Rainmakers such as Vlegert, Boanupstekker, Haakke Toone, Drukesmann, Gort met Stroop and others.

Each time one came up I received a poke in the back from Janet who was sitting behind me.

After the Dutch came six Georgian men (a group called Meroni) who played different instruments and sang. The harmonies they produced were thrilling.

Following them came a team of Georgian dancers, six men and three women. They performed spectacular solos and group dances. They were all young and very agile. The men danced on their toes, without blocks in their shoes. ("Will they be crippled with arthritis in later years?" I asked myself.)

After the interval we were entertained by a Chinese lion - with British men inside it. This was amusing at first but it went on too long. Obviously they were filling in time for the Turks.

Sighs of relief all round when back came the Dutch with many more dances, some familiar (e.g. Ys Wals, Horlepiep) and others not known to us. We enjoyed their dancing very much.

The Georgians rounded off the evening with the ladies taking a more prominent role this time, gliding about as if on castors. Mention must be made of the Georgian's accompanist who was a virtuoso on the accordion.

All the performers re-appeared for a final curtain call. It was a very enjoyable evening.

End of Rainmakers' Summer Term – July 21, '00

Dance Programme'

Kak Pri Balke (Tape)
Devushky Padruzhenky (Tape)

Lublin Polka (Tape)
Danish Schottische

Inch Imanayee (Tape)
Ha'ora Haketana

Marushka
Hambo

Polka Dot
Hava Nagila

A Ja Taka
Gyovand (Tape)

Sprotzer Achterum
Pravo Trakijsko Hora (Tape)

Hora Hadera
Ta'am Haman (Tape)

Le Rond Argentonais
Bourree des Jeunes

Pandelas (Tape)
Archangelski Chorovod (Tape)
Trakijska Rucenica (Tape)

Fyrtur
Tancuj

Chassene (Tape)
Horlepiep

Renningen
Te'en (Tape)

Hoi Harmonica
Aymar Behar Hamor (Tape)

La Bourree Pastourelle

Hashual
Erev Ba
Stenka (Tape)



Rainmakers' End-of-Year Party:
July 21st 2000

Back Row: Henry, Betty, Louise, Michael, Peter, Mark, Adrian B. Martin
 Peter L. Sue, Richard, Graham.

2nd Row
 Standing: Isabel, Moya, Patti, Kathka, Jane, Claire, Pam, Peg
 Geraldine, Phil, Daksha
 (corner of her skirt!)

Kneeling +
 Sitting : Adrian Martin B. Janet, Heather, Sheila, Jill.
 (Jacob's ladder)

Two visitors were also present.

Photo. from Jill.

Rainmakers' End-of-Year Party.

Friday, July 21st 2000

The last Rainmakers' Club evening at St. Michael's Hall, Letchworth, marking the end of the official year, seemed to come round very quickly to me, even though I have been hardly able to dance in the past year.

Everyone attending had been asked to make a special effort to wear a national costume as Graham wanted to take photographs with a view to choosing one to send up to the S. I. F. D. for inclusion in their Millennium Book. Even though a few regular dancers had already gone on holiday, about thirty members were there (most wearing costumes) and two visitors.

The surprise of the evening (to most of us) was a real live band standing in the corner ready to play for us. Michael, Adrian, Martin, Heather and Louise (members of Jacob's Ladder and Cloudburst Bands except for Louise) had decided to form a "scratch" band for the evening. Jill had given them her programme of dances in good time so they were all prepared. Some dances were on tape so that the musicians could dance. We are so fortunate to have all these musicians amongst our dancing members.

The evening went with a swing and we performed thirty-three dances between 8.00 and 11.00 p.m. There was a break when a variety of refreshments, brought by members, were consumed and there was an

opportunity for conversation.

Unlike some folk dancing clubs (and the Windmill Theatre) the Rainmakers do not shut down completely at the end of July.

A series of Garden Evenings have been arranged where many of us will meet until the official new term begins on September 2nd. Graham distributed leaflets for these and thanked Jill, the Band and all those who had helped to organise such a jolly evening.



Photo
from
Jill

La Danza degli Ombrelli!?

Steady rain came on at about 9.00 p.m. at Jill and Peter's Garden Evening, so the Rainmakers lived up to their name.

Rainmakers

Garden Evenings 2000

*** All Evening start at 7.30pm ***

28 th July	Red Gables Benslow Path The Avenue Hitchin 01462 457791	MC : Jill Hosts: Jill and Peter
4 th August	34 Broadwater Av. Letchworth 01462 686419	MC : Claire Host: Claire
11 th August	8 Hallmead Letchworth 01462 636038	MC : Graham Host: Sheila
18 th August	No Meeting	
25 th August	5 Langbridge Close Hitchin 01462 459349	MC : Alan Hosts: Sue and Adrian

Friday, 28th July 2000

The Weather Forecast for July 28th was "Heavy local showers in the South" so it looked as though the Rainmakers might live up to their name. During the afternoon there were very heavy showers in Stevenage and Letchworth with thunder and lightening but when

twenty six of us (including two children) arrived in Hitchin, a few miles from the other places, all was dry. Jill played tapes of mostly easy dances, suitable for dancing on grass and a slope and much fun was had by all dancers. Unfortunately seven of us had to sit and watch because of injuries of one sort and another but we had a chat whilst being entertained.

See
photo.
← Just before nine o'clock, light rain began to fall. Henry held a large umbrella over the tape player and some onlookers put up their umbrellas. This really was "Danza degli Ombrelli!"

The rain was slight but it was decided to risk no more so we all piled into Jill and Peter's house for refreshments, much conversation and laughter.

I was unable to attend any of the subsequent Garden Evenings but I heard that they were well attended, the weather stayed dry for all of them and they were much enjoyed.

Members of Rainmakers thank all the hosts and hostesses, and M.C.'s for the work they put in to prepare their gardens, compile programmes and generally look after us all.