



RAINMAKERS Vol.2

1978 ~ 1980



Volume 2.

THE  
RAINMAKERS  
SCRAPBOOK  
1978-79

**INTERNATIONAL  
FOLK DANCING**  
The Rainmakers welcome new  
members  
**MEET EVERY FRIDAY 8 pm**  
**CHURCH HALL**  
Albert Street, Old Stevenage  
New session begins September 8th

1979-80



## Day of Movement and Dance at Bedford College of Higher Education.

On September 16th a group of Rainmakers went to Bedford College to represent the S.I.F.D at a day of Movement and Dance.

During the demonstrations in the morning, our group performed the Girls' Dance from Kalosca, Kreuz Köening and the Israeli Suite. These were enthusiastically received.

In the afternoon we were able to join in workshops with the other groups. (Some of us did Scottish Dancing or Rhythmic Gymnastics, moved with the League of Health and Beauty or did English Dancing.) Then everyone rallied around and helped at our own workshop.

This was very successful as the participants picked up the dances very quickly. We danced Little Joseph, Tzadik Katamar, Hakke Toone, Little Man in a Fix, Neopolitan Tarantella, Polonez and Mayim Mayim. Everyone



seemed to enjoy the dances and Jill was besieged by enquiries about dancing at the end.

Thanks to the dancers who came to support us. It was a good opportunity to "show off our group" and to become more knowledgeable about some of the other varieties of Movement and Dance that were offered to us on this "Day of Dance".

EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT AND DANCE LIAISON GROUP

DAY OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE

16TH SEPTEMBER, 1978

3.45 - 4.30 - Dance Drama Hall

The Society for International Folk  
Dancing



The British Amateur Dancers Association  
Mr. Richard Pape, 477 North Western Avenue, Watford, Herts.

The British Amateur Gymnastics Association  
(Modern Rhythmic Movement Section)  
Mrs. J.M. Bott, 22 South Priors Court, Lings, Northampton NN3 4LD

The British Association of Teachers of Dancing  
Mr. F. Boulwood, 30 Marlborough Gardens, Lovelace Road, Surbiton, Surrey

The Dalcroze Society  
Mrs. Althea Heron, 16 Heathcroft, Hampstead Way, London, NW 11

The East Anglian Federation of Square Dance Clubs  
Mrs. D. Forbes, 37 Swifts Green Road, Stopsley, Luton, Beds.

The Eastern Counties Keep Fit Association  
Mrs. P. Simmonds, Vanmir, Nancy Downs, Oxhey, Herts. WD2 4NF

The English Folk Dance and Song Society  
Mrs. B. Jude, 15 South Road, Baldock, Herts.

The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing  
Miss E. Harrison, 47 The Avenue, Watford, Herts.

The Laban Art of Movement Guild  
Mrs. C. Wallman, 83 Lorraine Road, Wootton, Beds.

The Margaret Morris Movement  
Mrs. R. Simmonds, 9 Chantry Close, Cambridge CB4 1AR

The Medau Society  
Mrs. R. Lawrence, 3 Bradgate Road, Bedford MK40 3DE

The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Mr. A.T. Butchart, 28 Rowallan Drive, Bedford MK41 8AR

The Society for International Folk Dancing  
Miss B. Jackson, 35 Lower Shelton Road, Marston Moreteyne, Beds.

The Women's League of Health and Beauty  
Miss J. Jefferies, Manor Farm, Ravensden, Bedford MK44 2RT



EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT & DANCE LIAISON GROUP

DAY OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE

Aim of the Day

The concept of such a day, arising directly from the formation of the Eastern Region Movement & Dance Liaison Group, was initiated in September 1977 and, by popular request, is being repeated in 1978. It is an occasion of greater interchange between the members of different organisations. A 'get to know one another day' primarily for members. An opportunity to enjoy practical sessions in a different style of movement, as well as that of one's own organisation. A chance to become more knowledgeable about some of the many varieties of movement and dance available to the general public.

The Programme

- 9.30 a.m. - Coffee in the college dining hall
- 10.00 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. - Informal short sessions where each organisation shows a 'taster' of its own style of work in the Dance Drama Hall, Lansdowne Road
- 12.45 p.m. - LUNCH
- 1.45 p.m. - Opportunity for all course members to join in three separate three quarter hour practical sessions with the three organisations of their choice
- 4.30 p.m. - TEA

Course members will need to bring with them comfortable garments for practical sessions and shoes that can be worn for folk dance. In order to preserve the high quality floors, the shoes must be light-weight and with meticulously clean soles. Alternative shoes and additional warm clothing will be needed when walking outside between the movement halls. Showers are available but course members will need their own towels.

The fee to be £1.50p per person.

Luncheon is available in college for those who have previously ordered (see application form) at £1.50 per person.

APPLICATION FORM

For Office Use  
Card

For one person only

DAY OF MOVEMENT & DANCE - SATURDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER, 1978

Bedford College of Higher Education, Lansdowne Road, Bedford

Mr.  
Name: Mrs. ....  
Miss .....

Address: .....  
..... Tel.No.:.....

Organisation:.....

Please state if you attended last year YES/NO

Please tick appropriate box:-

Course fee only . . . . . £1.50 per person

Course fee plus luncheon £3.00 per person

Fees should be sent with this form (cheques/PO's made payable to 'Eastern Region Movement & Dance Liaison Group').

The Eastern Region Movement & Dance Liaison Group, the Sports Council, servants, agents and employees are not under any liability whatsoever in respect of personal injury, loss or damage, however caused, while attending the Conference.

Signed:..... Date:.....

Please complete this application form and return it, together with:

- a) Course fee
- b) Foolscap, stamped, addressed envelope to - 'the representative of your organisation whose name is shown on the reverse of this page'

Group applications, where receipts can be returned together, need only one or two envelopes according to numbers applying.

Applications will not be accepted after 30th June, 1978.

Travel directions will be sent on receipt of application forms and fees.



- The British Amateur Dancers Association  
Mr. Richard Pape, 477 North Western Avenue, Watford, Herts.
- The British Amateur Gymnastics Association  
(Modern Rhythmic Movement Section)  
Mrs. J.M. Bott, 22 South Priors Court, Lings, Northampton NN3 4LD
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Miss J. Jefferies, Manor Farm, Ravensden, Bedford MK44 2RT



EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT AND DANCE LIAISON GROUP

DAY OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE

Saturday, 16th September, 1978

Bedford College of Higher Education, 37 Lansdowne Road, Bedford

PROGRAMME

All morning sessions will take place in the Dance Drama Hall.

- 10.00 a.m. - Welcome and Introduction.
- 10.15 - 10.25 a.m. - The British Amateur Gymnastics Association  
(Modern Rhythmic Movement Section).
- 10.25 - 10.35 a.m. - The Women's League of Health and Beauty.
- 10.35 - 10.45 a.m. - The English Folk Dance & Song Society.
- 10.45 - 10.55 a.m. - The Medau Society.
- 10.55 - 11.05 a.m. - The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society.
- 11.05 - 11.15 a.m. - The Eastern Counties Keep Fit Association.
- 11.15 - 11.25 a.m. - The Society for International Folk Dancing.
- 11.25 - 11.35 a.m. - The Dalcroze Society.
- 11.35 - 11.45 a.m. - The East Anglian Federation of Square Dance Clubs.
- 11.45 - 11.55 a.m. - The Margaret Morris Movement.
- 11.55 - 12.05 p.m. - The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing.
- 12.45 p.m. - LUNCH
- 1.45 - 2.30 p.m.
- The Eastern Counties Keep Fit Association - Warwick Gymnasium
- The British Amateur Gymnastics Association - Read/Stansfield Gymnasium  
(Modern Rhythmic Movement Section)
- The Royal Scottish Dance Society - Dance Drama Hall
- The Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing - Dance Studio
- 2.45 - 3.30 p.m.
- The Medau Society - Warwick Gymnasium
- The English Folk Dance & Song Society - Read/Stansfield Gymnasium
- The Women's League of Health and Beauty - Dance Drama Hall
- The Dalcroze Society - Dance Studio
- 3.45 - 4.30 p.m.
- The Margaret Morris Movement - Warwick Gymnasium
- The East Anglian Federation of Square Dance Clubs - Read/Stansfield Gymnasium
- The Society for International Folk Dancing - Dance Drama Hall
- 4.30 p.m. - TEA



## DAY OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE AT BEDFORD COLLEGE

On 16th September a group of twelve Rainmakers (International Folk Dance Group from Stevenage) went to Bedford College to represent the S.I.F.D. at a Day of Movement and Dance organized by the Eastern Region Movement & Dance Liaison. This was the second year of this "Day of Dance" that Margery Latham, as a member of the Eastern Region Dance Liaison Group helped to set up and worked at last year. The aim of the day is to develop interchange between members of different organizations and to enjoy practical sessions in other styles of movement as well as that of one's own organization.

During the morning, each group showed a "taster" of its own style of work while the other two hundred-odd course members watched and the video cameras rolled. Brenda Jackson efficiently announced the groups and put us at our ease with her relaxed style. Rainmakers performed the Girls' Dance from the Kalosca Region of Hungary, Kreuz Koonig, and an Israeli suite. These were enthusiastically received.

In the afternoon, we were able to attend workshops led by other groups - The English Folk Dance & Song Society, The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, and the East Anglian Federation of Square Dance Clubs, to name but a "folksy" few. Our own workshop, which was oversubscribed, was very successful as the participants picked up the dances very quickly. We danced Little Joseph, Tzadik Katamar, Hakke Toone, Little Man in a Fix, Neapolitan Tarantella, Polonez and Mayim Mayin. Everyone seemed to enjoy the session and one and a half hours after the end I was still answering questions about the dances, the music, our group and the S.I.F.D.

Thank you, to the dancers who came to support me, especially in the workshop. It was a good opportunity to "show off" international folk dancing and to become more knowledgeable about some of the varieties of movement and dance that were open to us on this Day of Dance.

JILL BRANSBY

(Chairman of Rainmakers)

ED. NOTE: Brenda Jackson, who was involved in the organization, also wrote a similar report on the Day and said that although it was a team effort and all the group were very good, the District Officer of the Sports Council made special mention of Warren Lowlett and said how lovely it was to watch a young man dancing so competently and with such evident enjoyment. Also, that many of those belonging to groups specifically aimed at becoming, or keeping, fit are still asking themselves how Jill Bransby could dance quite so energetically for quite so long and sing and smile at the same time!

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Friday, October 16th.

Instead of our usual club evening most of the Rainmakers went to Hitchin Town Hall to dance. The North Herts. and South Beds Sailing Club were holding their annual Barn Dance there and we were invited to provide the "cabaret" and join in the general dancing.

The dances performed were:-

Hoi Harmonica  
Girls' Dance from Kalocsa.  
Fjallnas Polska  
Kohanochka  
Israeli Suite.  
Clog Dance. (Janet.)



Hoi Harmonica



Girls' Dance from Kalosca.





Kohanochka



Fjalnas Polska



Israeli Suite.



Hora Agadati



Erev Bah





Hava Nagila

Friday, October 23rd. 1978

Jumble Sale - 7.15 p.m.

Quite a rush, but plenty of jumble and helpers came along.

Unfortunately there was another sale on along the road at 7.30 p.m. the same day and about ten more in Stevenage the next day, so customers were not so numerous as we hoped.

However the net profit was £16.50

Minsden Community Centre. November 8th.

7.30 - 8.30

Some of the Rainmakers danced for the old people at Minsden Community Centre. We danced a variety of dances including old favourites and some new ones, Sani Yadech, Troika Russian Waltz to name a few.

Isobel and Warren bravely danced the 'Hopak' and Janet did an interesting Liverpool hornpipe in her clogs.



The men seemed to spend most of the evening taking their shoes on and off as they wore Israeli costumes and so had to put their shoes on again for Ox Danse, Kreuz Koenig etc!

Isobel took her boots off for Hava Nagila as we were anticipating a slippery surface and a fast dance. The recording turned out to be very slow (16 R.P.M.) and we had a job to get off the ground!

The old people enjoyed it very much and one old man said he'd seen us on the television!

We were asked to come back again soon - much sooner than last time.

Thanks to those who demonstrated. It is nice to bring pleasure to other people and to enjoy ourselves at the same time!

Friday, November 10th.

The second annual general meeting was held at the Catholic Church Hall Albert Street at 9. p.m.

Officers Elected:

Chairman.	Jill Bransby
Secretary.	Roy Bowtell
Treasurer.	George Lowlett
Social Events.	Eileen Stillwell
Publicity Officer	Betty Lee .



MINUTES OF 1st. A.G.M. AT CATHOLIC CHURCH HALL

Albert St., STEVENAGE

The meeting opened at 9pm on Friday 21st. October 1977

16 members were in attendance.

1. Mrs J. Bransby was elected to preside at the meeting (proposed by R. Bowtell & seconded by Eileen Stillwell)
2. Mrs Bransby thanked the committee, secretary treasurer, Sue Cox, Joyce Duffey and Andrea Carr for their various efforts during the past year.

3. SECRETARYS REPORT

As the secretary Mrs. M. Heskins was unable to attend her daughter Christine read the report in her absence. The report was adopted by the meeting after being proposed by Peter Bransby & seconded by Eileen Stillwell.

4. The treasurers report was read by Mr. Roy Bowtell. The financial position was quite healthy at that time and the group would be able to buy equipment in the near future especially if we made use of our affiliation to the society as they would very likely give us a loan.

Roy thanked those people who had made donations to the group through out the year. Peter Bransby stated that he had audited the books and found them satisfactory.

Some discussion followed and the report was adopted after Mr. Peter Bransby and Henry Lee proposed & seconded the adoption.

5. Election of officers

The following officers were nominated and duly elected.

Chairman	Mrs J. Bransby
Secretary	Mr. R. Bowtell
Treasurer	Mrs J. Duffey
Publicity Officer	Mrs B. Lee
Social events	Miss Christine Heskins

6. CONSTITUTION

It was proposed by Peter Bransby and seconded by Henry Lee that a sub committee be formed to draft a constitution. This would be adopted by the committee and abided by and then put forward for Ratification at the next A.G.M.

7. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

1. Equipment - It was decided to discuss at the next committee meeting possible purchases

7cont. of equipment and possibly nominate a responsible person who would decide on what type of equipment would be purchased also it was hoped that books & tapes would be bought as soon as possible.

## 2. RAISING MONEY

Discussion on how to raise money ensued including raffles jumble sales and increases in subscription. It was finally decided that we would continue to run raffles at any extraordinary function, that we would run more jumble sales and we would increase non-members subscription by 5p per week.

## 3. DEMONSTRATION

There was discussion on whether too many demonstrations were being held or not. The general feeling was that we should continue to do a high number as it is good advertising and displays do attract new members, but as much advance warning would be appreciated also dancing in pre-arranged partners would be advantageous.

The meeting ended at 10pm.



Tuesday, December 5th.

Once again we were the guests of the Anglo-American Club. They made us most welcome and enjoyed joining in our easier dances as well as watching the display team.

As their membership numbers are falling this may well be the last meeting of this club.

Friday, December 15th was the night of the Rainmakers' Christmas Party. Unfortunately many regular, familiar faces at the Friday class were missing, victims of a virulent flu germ and other Winter ailments. We missed these members very much.

Those present had a happy evening. The hall was decorated by Eileen and Christine and Eileen also organised our refreshments.

We danced all the dances of our choice.

The Albert Street Singers came to entertain us, and the Wildwood Clog Dancers (Janet and her sister) also performed splendidly.

Arrangements were made for a party to go up to Cecil Sharp House to a dance on January 8th 1979.

Stevenage International Club asked us to give them an evening again on Friday, January 12th 1978

This event was very well attended. The International Club members were keen to join in the dancing and picked up the easier dances quickly. It's a pity both clubs meet on a Friday night - we could recruit new Rainmakers.

The highlight of the evening was the Hopak, danced by Isobel and Warren, wearing magnificent new costumes which Isobel has made.

George and Roy performed the Ox Dance in a very amusing way.

Janet's Liverpool Clog Dance was delightful and unusual in that



she danced around the room  
instead of on a board.



STEVENAGE International Club presented an evening of folk dances from all over the world at the college on Friday evening.

Their guests for the night were The Rainmakers, a group of about two dozen dancers — all local — who specialise in foreign styles.

The club secretary Mrs Joyce Bungay says that they hope to have The Rainmakers back next year.



Dancing at the International Club.













January 8th (Sunday)

A party of Rainmakers visited Cecil Sharpe House for the S.I.F.D.'s New Year Dance. Eileen hired a mini-bus which was expertly driven by Roy. We made quite an impression at the House with our striped costumes.

Thanks to Roy and Eileen who organised the enjoyable trip.

The Roundabouts invited us to one of their club evenings on Thursday, January 18th. We danced English dances, efficiently called by Joy Shea.

We demonstrated Saftenburger and the Sicillian Tarentella. The latter the Roundabouts danced with us, complete with a supply of school tambourines. (Thanks to Audrey and Margery!) It was nice for the clubs to get together again.



Friday, 19th January.

Betty Harvey and Frank Flannagan (from the Jacy Tacy Group in London) braved a snowstorm to visit us and teach us some Polish dancing.

Some of the Cambridge Group came to take advantage of the teaching also. We spent most of the evening on the Krakoviac and did a slow, simple dance called Zagrodnik as well. We hope to perfect these in subsequent weeks at the club.

Thursday, 1st February.

A party of Rainmakers visited the Gordon Craig Theatre to watch "Tziganka" - a Russian programme of dancing and music.

The dancing and costumes were rather disappointing but we did learn a new hold for Kreuz Koenig and how to play the tambourine with a foot! The musicians were very good. We ended up at Sue's home afterwards to celebrate Joyce's "21st" birthday and decided that

we could show Tziganka a thing  
or two!

# Gordon Craig Theatre



at the

**STEVENAGE LEISURE CENTRE**



RUSSIAN GYPSY & FOLK MUSIC





# Gordon Craig Theatre

Thursday to Saturday 1 to 3 February 1979

## "ACROSS THE RUSSIAN STEPPES"

TZIGANKA - Russian folk ensemble

with BIBS EKKEL balalaika FAINA ZINOVA singer  
and the ARGONOFF COSSACK DANCERS

- 1 : "Moonshine" - Sailors' dance THE ARGONOFF DANCERS
- 2 : "My Gypsies" FAINA ZINOVA  
"Where are you now, my gypsies ?  
How everything has changed.  
No more nights under the stars.  
I will never forget you."
- 3 : "The Letter" FAINA ZINOVA  
"It's all over and you are gone.  
Just this letter remains, and the  
emptiness in my heart."
- 4 : "Black Eyes" FAINA ZINOVA  
"A gypsy cannot live without champagne  
and vodka, without the nights spent  
round the campfire till dawn."
- 5 : "Hoyka-Hoyka" BIBS EKKEL  
Bibs Ekkel, who should know better,  
sings his own composition.
- 6 : Gypsy Medley IVAN TREVANSKY accordion
- 7 : "Ukrainian Dance" THE ARGONOFF DANCERS
- 8 : "Steppes all Around" FAINA ZINOVA  
A coachman dying in the Steppes  
bids farewell to his friend.
- 9 : "Enough" FAINA ZINOVA  
"You have your freedom, so now go.  
My happiness lies ahead without you."
- 10 : "No Regrets" FAINA ZINOVA  
Faina sings one of her favourite Piaf songs.

- 11 : "The Long Road" FAINA ZINOVA  
An old Russian gypsy song made  
famous in the West.
- 12 : "Yablochko" - a sailors' dance THE ARGONOFF DANCERS

interval of fifteen minutes

- 13 : "Gypsy Dance" THE ARGONOFF DANCERS
- 14 : "Sleigh Bells" ("Tam bubna zvon") FAINA ZINOVA  
A typical Russian gypsy song.
- 15 : "Your Green Eyes" FAINA ZINOVA  
"If only I could for one last time  
see your face and those beautiful green  
eyes ; those cheating green eyes that  
drove me out of my mind."
- 16 : "Vaniusha" FAINA ZINOVA  
From the roaring twenties.  
"Don't cry Vanya - wash away your  
sadness with vodka and wine."
- 17 : "Suburban Moscow Evenings" FAINA ZINOVA  
Otherwise known as "Moscow Nights"  
or "Midnight in Moscow".
- 18 : "The Pedlars" } BIBS EKKEL balalaika
- 19 : "Polyanka" } VANYA guitar  
play two Russian songs.
- 20 : "The Dwarfs Dance" PANTALON & NIKITA
- 21 : "Katiusha" FAINA ZINOVA  
A young girl looks out over the river,  
and day-dreams about the day when her  
loved one will return from the war.
- 22 : "If You Love Me" FAINA ZINOVA
- 23 : "Kalinka" FAINA ZINOVA  
The song which has become so famous  
throughout the world that no Russian  
concert can be complete without it !
- 24 : "Gopak" THE ARGONOFF DANCERS  
A stirring and acrobatic Cossack dance.

March 13 to 17  
For the first time in London

# IRAQI

## NATIONAL DANCE COMPANY

with traditional Arab musical instruments  
5 performances only - Evgs 7.30



Sadler's Wells Theatre  
Rosebery Ave. EC1 (01-837 1672)



## Dance

### ALEXANDER BLAND

The Iraqi National Dance Company is very well drilled and nicely presented; its modest setting shows a tiny oil-well, a city dominated by tower blocks and what seems to be a giant poster advertising dogs. The dances were foreseeable — warriors and vaguely oriental girls flirting and mock-fighting to the sound of instruments with exotic names and a rather homely timbre. The number which best gave a feel of the country was a drum quartet by moonlight.

The Observer March 11th 1979





The Iraqi National Dance Company visits London this week for the very first time to present the colourful music and dances of traditional Arab life at Sadler's Wells Theatre. Appearing from 13-17 March, the 23 dancers illustrate aspects of Iraq's daily round and rituals - like 'The Fisherman', a Bedouin wedding dance, or 'Arabi Chori' (above), a peasant dance performed on festival days. Accompaniment is provided by a folk music group playing traditional instruments.

Formed as recently as 1971, the Company worked under the supervision of a Soviet dance director until it was firmly established. Since then it has appeared at venues all over the world, winning several international folk dancing competitions. You can get additional information from the Iraqi Cultural Centre, 177-178 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 9LF.

OBSERVER MAGAZINE 11 MARCH 1979

On Saturday, March 17th we were there!  
A party of ten Rainmakers thoroughly enjoyed the Iraqi evening at Sadler's Wells Theatre. We travelled in a mini-bus, driven by Roy and were thankful to leave the negotiation of London's one-way street system, in his expert hands. On arrival we were a little dismayed to see policemen and demonstrators outside

the theatre. Although the atmosphere inside was electric, nothing unpleasant transpired.

The dancing of the small Iraqi company was superb and, from our lofty seats, we particularly appreciated the patterns and diagonals formed by the lines of dancers in some dances. There was a similarity of steps and formation to some of our Israeli dances (though not a similarity of execution!)

The striking colours of the costumes all added to the delight.

Throughout, the dancers were accompanied by drums and instruments resembling guitars, zithers and trumpets.

I would estimate that two-thirds of the audience were Iraqi people, some of whom had travelled great distances just for the evening. Jill's Iraqi neighbour had come from Leeds. They clapped and sang in the middle of performances by the musicians. This all helped to create a marvellous atmosphere. We came home very impressed.



Minsden Community Centre, Tuesday  
March 20th.

The Rainmakers visited the elderly residents of the Minsden Community Centre recently. We were warmly welcomed and our costumes were much admired.

The dances performed were:—

Chekassia Kfula

Meitschi Putz-di

Handkerchief Dance

Swedish Schottische

Belt Dance

Hopak

Karapyet

Jo Jon

Fjallnas Polska

Dance from Somogy

Sicillian Tarantella

Nirkoda (Second Israeli Suite.)

Clog Dance by Janet.

**RAINMAKERS**  
**JUMBLE SALE**  
Friday, 23rd March  
7.30 pm

Private sale!  
Guess where.

Despite the error in the advertisement and some frantic last-minute local advertising, about the same number of customers as usual came along.

The profits were £25 and a good record player retained for Club use.

A microphone stand was bought from these profits.

● Rainmakers International folk dancing meet at Catholic church hall, Albert Street, Stevenage, 8 pm. Details ring Stevenage 2871.



## Townswomen's Guild. April 5th.

On Thursday, April 5th a group of Rainmakers visited the Townswomen's Guild at Broadhall Community Centre. We danced some demonstration dances and we also got the ladies joining in simple dances such as Danish Skating Dance, Djatchko Kolo, Little Joseph etc. There was a large audience and it was very hot but we managed to impress them with our enthusiasm even though we were wilting in the heat! We finished up with a version of Nirkoda which gave us confidence for the Gathering on Saturday.

● THE dancing feet of the Rainmakers provided the entertainment at April's meeting of the Stevenage Broadhall Evening Townswomen's Guild.



**HITCHIN  
GATHERING  
1979**





All members of The Staplers Country Dance Club welcome you to the 21st Hitchin Gathering. Our first Gathering, held in this same Town Hall in 1958, was on a smaller scale altogether, bringing enthusiasts from Hitchin, Luton, Stevenage and the surrounding districts to dance together to the still popular and going-strong music of The Strawplaiters Band.

Over the years, thanks to the tremendous support of dancers and friends from many counties, especially Hertfordshire, the Gathering has grown to its present, filled-to-capacity size. Its popularity owes everything to the enthusiasm of the dancers, whose displays take so much thought, effort and rehearsal to present: to Roger Nicholls and the Orange and Blue Band, whose splendid and meticulously prepared music has been the springboard for our Gatherings in recent years; and to first class singers who, like all our other performers, are giving their services freely to enhance the reputation and finances of the English Folk Dance and Song Society through whom the traditional songs, music and dances of our country are channelled to us.

We thank all our performers for supporting us and wish them all a happy and successful afternoon. To our audience, amongst whom we also count many friends, we wish an enjoyable feast of folk (with a profound hope that you may be able to see!), and, to the very many Staplers who have worked long and hard to prepare and present this Gathering AND the twenty that have preceded it, thanks, congratulations, and best wishes for the next twenty one!

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THE GATHERING DANCES

TONIGHT    +++    HERE    +++    TONIGHT

M.C. BERNARD CHALK with BRIAN HAMILTON'S BARD - POPULAR DANCE  
(in the main hall)

or

M.C. TONY COMPTON with THE CHILPERN RAMBLERS - STRICTLY PLAYFORD  
(in the small hall)

SONGS BY ALBERT STREET:    CLOG DANCING BY TOM CRONIN

EACH DANCE - £1.50 (£1.30 with LFDS membership card)

REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED    ..... LICENCED BAR

THE TWENTY-FIRST HITCHIN GATHERING  
THE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND - LEADER: ROGER NICHOLLS  
M.C. BRIAN LIMBRICK

OVERTURE	THE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND
STAPLERS	STAPLERS' FANCY
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD 'TRAVELLING AROUND'	NOTTINGHAM REEL ROSE OF ROCHESTER FAIR QUAKER OF DEAL
NORTH HERTS. REEL CLUB	THE SAILOR STASSIN HARVEST FIFE NESS
LYNNE HERAUD and SUE ASHBY	FOLK SONGS
ROUNDABOUTERS	JENNY FLUCK PEARS LASS OF RICHMOND HILL
STEVENAGE SWORD DANCERS	NORTH WEST RAPPER SWORD DANCE
STANDON and BISHOP'S STORTFORD GROUPS	LINDSEY RANT LONG POND ESCORT TO LEICESTER IRIS' WHIRLING
RAINMAKERS 'NIRKODA' (LET'S DANCE) A Selection of Israeli Dances	SIMI YADICH ZEMER ATIK SHIRU HASHIR TZADIK KATAMAR KUMA ECHA
CHILDREN'S DANCE	FOR ALL CHILDREN and MUM and DAD
DANCING FOR ALL	THIS ONE FOR ADULTS ONLY!

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FOLK SONGS

CONTRA GOES WEST

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BALANCE THE STRAW - FIELDTOWN

THE OLD BOOT  
WILTSHIRE TEMPEST  
THE COTTAGERS  
QUEEN VICTORIA'S COUNTRY DANCE

CLOG DANCING

'RANTING ON THE BORDERS'

\*\*\*\*\*

Light refreshments are available throughout the afternoon in the gymnasium.

Our grateful thanks to THE HITCHIN RANGERS who are in charge, both there and in the cloakrooms.

There is also an English Folk Dance and Song Society Sales Desk in the gymnasium.



Secretaries of Clubs and Groups 1978/79

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STAPLERS' TOWN BARN DANCE  
on NATIONAL FOLK DAY, SAT. JUNE 24th  
at HITCHIN TOWN HALL, 7.30 p.m.

M.C. BRIAN LIMBRICK with BRIAN HAMILTON'S BAND  
Admission by ticket @1.50 incl. supper. Enquiries Hitchin 56353

## Townswomen's Guild. April 5th.

On Thursday, April 5th a group of Rainmakers visited the Townswomen's Guild at Broadhall Community Centre. We danced some demonstration dances and we also got the ladies joining in simple dances such as Danish Skating Dance, Djatchko Kolo, Little Joseph etc. There was a large audience and it was very hot but we managed to impress them with our enthusiasm even though we were wilting in the heat! We finished up with a version of Nirkoda which gave us confidence for the Gathering on Saturday.

● THE dancing feet of the Rainmakers provided the entertainment at April's meeting of the Stevenage Broadhall Evening Townswomen's Guild.



## Hitchin Gathering. April 7th.

1979.

The carrying in of a very large be-candelled birthday cake heralded the start of the twenty-first Hitchin Gathering for folk dancers. The cake was closely followed by the Stappers, all carrying or wearing large silver keys and singing "Twenty-one today."

There followed a most varied, entertaining programme of high standard

The Rainmakers danced quite early in the afternoon. Their contribution was Nirkoda (Let's Dance!) a suite of Israeli dances. From our position on the platform we quickly appreciated why Jill and Diana had so carefully planned the formations of snaking lines, circles and diagonals.

Even though the music was played faster than usual the dancers smoothly changed from one dance to another and continued the complicated patterns. No-one flagged at all during the dancing (though they must have collapsed afterwards.) The

audience enjoyed their dancing very much, signified by a very warm round of applause. The Hitchin Gazette also chose to publish a photograph of the Rainmakers in action as their record of the Hitchin Gathering.

It must be noted that many of our members were to be recognised, but only just, dancing with the Staplers as Ancient Britons or Picts and Scots raiding over the border. I actually saw one, (Jill), steal a sheep.

Other Rainmakers were to be seen dancing with the Roundabouts and the Stevenage Sword team.

Congratulations to all who took part that day.

Postscript: Note the Gazette reports this to be the Rainmakers first appearance at the Gathering. It is their third.



# ISRAELI SUNSHINE



## DANCERS FLOCK TO A 21ST BIRTHDAY

Folk dance clubs from the whole of the North Herts area tripped into town for the 21st Staplers Gathering at Hitchin Town Hall on Saturday.

Clubs from Stevenage, Hemel Hempstead, Bedford, Harpenden and even as far afield as Nottingham, all displayed their own particular brand of English country dancing, clog dancing, folk sing-

ing and, of course, Morris dancing by the Offley Morris Men.—

The Bedford Orange and Blue Band provided the music with Brian Limbrick compering a gay, colourful afternoon of dance and fun.

A crowded hall saw a display of Israeli dancing and an exciting and breathtaking dance by the Stevenage Sword Dancers.

An innovation this year was an impressive Mummers

Play by the Offley Morris Men.

With the bright music and fine dancing in a myriad of colours, it's not surprising that children, teenagers, mums, dads and grandparents all found something to enjoy.

Undeterred after an afternoon's display dancing, many of the members and audience went to the evening dances in which everyone could take part. With a choice between popular English folk dances

led by the Brian Hamilton Band, or "strictly Playford" dances with the Chiltern Ramblers Band, everyone was happy to dance the night away.

The Rainmakers bring not rain but some lovely Israeli sunshine to Hitchin Staplers' 21st folk dance "Gathering." Their first appearance at this annual event certainly didn't dampen any enthusiasm, for as the adjoining story relates, the participants were full of gusto at Hitchin Town Hall.





























## Barnet International Folk Dance Club.

On May 18th a group of ten Rainmakers visited the Barnet International Folk Dance Club at Hadley Highstone for an evening of Armenian, Yugoslav and Greek dances.

Frances Horrocks taught us very expertly and we learned some interesting dances. The two that I (Till) remember especially are Gaida, a Greek circle dance with deep crouch steps and Kerkiraikos, from Corfu, which is a couple dance based on the ancient Greek Kalamatianos.

It was stimulating to dance with a large number of people and on a wooden floor.

## Barkway Street Market. May 19th.

The village of Barkway, in the hills above Royston, has held a street market each year since the Jubilee as the villagers enjoyed themselves so much on Jubilee Day.

This year the Rainmakers were invited to dance in the school playground at mid-day and again during the afternoon. The sun shone all day - the only fine day for ages before or since. We enjoyed the ride through the countryside (or fretted in Royston's traffic jams) and then prepared to dance.

We performed our usual recent programme of Nirkoda, Neopolitan Tarantella, Sicillian Tarantella, Girls' Dance for Kolosca and Kreuz Koenig to an appreciative crowd. The buckets were rattled and £12 was collected which we shared with the village charity.

Kind friends connected with the Albert Street Singers invited us into their home where they had prepared a lovely



salad lunch with hot potatoes, for us. Before dancing again we looked at all the stalls and strolled through the village.

A few days later we heard that Barkway is one of the villages in the path of the proposed new airport at Nuthampstead. Let us hope that the villagers win their fight against it.

Hitchin Town Barn Dance, on June 16th, organised by the Staplers, is an annual event, which all those locally connected with folk dancing look forward. Tickets were sold out long before the event.

The Rainmakers were asked to give two entertainments during the evening so there was much discussion, practise, and some worry beforehand over what we should do. The final choice seemed to please the audience of dancers.

Salty Dog Rag was the first item; an American "number" of the 1920's, Charleston-style couple dance. The dancers wore gaudily coloured dresses and shirts, striped socks and bows in the girls' hair and amused us with their appearance and Morcombe and Wise type of waving.

Following this, Diana and Roy, after a hurried change of clothes, performed a version of the Ox Dance in which the girl plays hard to get and the boy finally siezes her hair ribbons in triumph. Their play acting was superb, quite up to Festival Ballet standard,



which I have seen. The audience really appreciated Diana and Roy's efforts by laughing heartily and applauding them very warmly. If only it had been filmed!

Our next "spot" was a complete contrast. Wearing peasant costumes, the Rainmakers danced Neapolitan Tarantella with tambourines, a slow Polish square dance, Zagrodnik and finished with Sicilian Tarantella.

The Rainmakers thank the Staplers for inviting them to their dance and giving all the dancers a warm welcome and an enjoyable evening.

The M.C., Brian Kimbrick, said "The Rainmakers have a real sense of drama." Well, some of us have!

Bernard  
Chalk!  
said  
that!

## Roundabouts Day of Dance - July 7th.

Once again the Rainmakers were invited to join the Roundabouts on their annual Day of Dance tour. The leaders from Luton the Stevenage Sword Dancers, the Wildwood Cloggers and the Staplers also took part.

The weather was warm with just enough breeze to prevent the dancers flagging in the heat. We began in the New Town Centre, then we went up to the Old Town where we danced outside Waitrose's and also outside the White Hart.

Crowds of spectators gave generously to our rattling tins - the money being for the E.F.S.D.S. From there we coached to Fairlands Valley for a picnic lunch.

"Will it rain?" was the question uppermost as the clouds gathered. "Shall we change into Israeli dress?" was the other query, fearing spoiled embroidery or running dyes. However, rain did not fall.

The afternoon was spent in Welwyn where we danced in the garden behind the Stores. The collection here was to be shared between the E.F.S.D.S. and the Blind.



Finally the party returned to Stevenage New Town Shopping Centre to dance for another hour.

About £82 was collected.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the day and many still had energy for an excellent Barn Dance in the evening. The whole day was splendidly organised by Mrs. Phoebe Cropton.

The Rainmakers danced:-

Nirkoda

Zagrodinik

Sicillian Tarantella

Neopolitan Tarantella

The Belt Dance

The Handkerchief Dance - Armenia.

The Ox Danse (By Roy e Adrian)



"Grab your partner and swing to the left . . ." The dancers all join forces for a huge square dance at the start of Stevenage's Day of Dance on Saturday morning.



# Day of Dance pulls in the crowds . . .

**Old English traditions die hard thanks to folk groups like the Roundabouts whose annual Day of Dance drew large crowds of shoppers in Stevenage Town Centre and Old Town on Saturday.**

North Country clog dancing and sword dancing were included in their displays and rainmaking rituals, too, whose performance, though delightful to watch didn't affect Saturday's fine weather.

And it turned out to be

quite a family affair for the Croptons of Wildwood Lane, Stevenage.

Daughters Anne (19) and Janet (13), otherwise known as the Wildwood Cloggers and son, Ian, a member of the Stevenage Sword were among the performers.

So, too, were mum and dad, George Cropton, an American square dance enthusiast, and his wife, Phoebe, who is secretary of the Roundabouts.

"It all went very well," said Mrs. Cropton. "We all enjoyed ourselves and judging by the crowds, people enjoyed watching us."

They collected over £80 for their efforts which will go towards the English Folk Dance and Song Society which helps to keep traditional arts like these alive.

Now in its tenth year, the Stevenage Roundabouts have an active membership of around 40 but they would welcome some new members.

So if you are interested in finding out more and perhaps joining then go along to one of their weekly sessions held at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street in the Old Town. They meet on Thursdays at 8 pm.



Friday, July 13th was the Rainmakers last meeting of this session so it was a party night.

It was lovely to see the hall so full, practically all club members having managed to be there, and many visitors from Roundabouts, Staplers and the Square Dance Club. Despite the heat, everyone was full of energy and one dance rapidly followed another.

Richard Thom from Roundabouts and George Cropton, the leader of the Square Dancers, each called several of their dances for everyone to join in. The Square Dancers also gave us a display.

During the evening Jill presented a tambourine to Diana Steer as she will be moving to Southampton soon. We will all miss Diana's lively personality and expert dancing but wish her every happiness in her new home.

The whole evening was a great success thanks to Jill's tireless leadership and we were reluctant to stop at eleven o'clock. Thanks to all who helped.



Friday, July 20th - Garden Evening.

Reluctant to go into recess for the holiday, most club members were able to accept the kind invitation of Jill and Peter to dance in their garden at Letchworth. It was a beautiful summer evening and everyone enjoyed just dancing their favourite dances from the repertoire before reparing to the lounge to drink coffee and chat - a thing we don't usually have enough time for on the regular Friday club evenings.

It was a very happy occasion. Our thanks to Jill and Peter.

## Letchworth Fun Day, July 14th.

A large number of Rainmakers danced on the beautiful Kennedy Gardens' as part of the first Letchworth One Day Fun Day. The idea of the day was for clubs and societies to "do their thing". The day co-incided with Carnival Day and lovely weather so that there was quite a crowd watching.

We followed the Staplers after a short pause, whilst Sue, Jill, Roy and Adrian got their breath back and some of their wits together!

We danced:—

Neopolitan Tarantella	Gota
Girls' Dance from Kabesa.	Ox Dance
Kreuz Koenig	Sicillian Tarantella
Girls' Handkerchief Dance.	Nirkoda
Zagrodinik	

All very well and enthusiastically danced, slickly presented and very colourful. A show to be proud of!

People seemed interested in our



costumes and our dancing.

We distributed some information about our club.

Thanks to all who danced.

Saturday, July 21st.

The Rainmakers were asked to go to Cuffley where the National Society for Mentally Handicapped Children, Home Counties North Region, were holding their annual Regional Gateway Camp - Under - Canvas. Quite a few club members, together with some English Country Dancing friends went along to dance with the campers on their site in the woods.

The Rainmakers and friends danced Chekessia Kfula, Neopolitan Tarentella, Tzadik Katamar, Dorset Four-Hand Reel, Belt Dance, Sicillian Tarentella Kreuz Koenig, Handkerchief Dance, Shiru Hashir and Gathering Peascods. Janet Cropton also did some clog dancing.

Interspersed with these dances, the children loved joining in Circassian Circle, Tzadik Katamar, Elsdon Circle Dance, Setnja, and Muffin Man. It was a very happy afternoon that was enjoyed by everyone.



During the holidays we had two dance practices for Saturday, September 8th, one in Jill's garden and the other at St. John's Hall, Chells Way, and also four Hopak practices. Each evening we had planned a Hopak practice there was a downpour of rain about six o'clock making a garden practice impossible. Joyce's lounge proved a popular stamping ground.

Thanks to everyone for all the hard work put into these practices.

A new season begins!  
From Midweek Gazette, September 4th.  
1979

MIDWEEK

## Folk group seeks new members

**Stevenage folkdancers, The Rainmakers, are on the lookout for new members.**

The club has been running for three years and members often dance at old people's homes, clubs for the handicapped and similar groups.

They also take part in an annual day of dance with the Roundabouts.

The club specialises in folk dances from most countries in Europe, and wears costumes to suit the occasion.

"It is a very happy, lively club, but we need more members," said Mrs. Betty Lee. "We would particularly like more young members, but everyone is welcome. Not all our dances are strenuous as some seem to believe."

The club meets every Friday evening between 8 and 10 pm at the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, and meetings start again after the summer break on Friday.

Our new term began on September 7th with the first of four special sessions for beginners. Eight new people came along.



## Bedford Day of Dance and Movement - September 8th.

The Eastern Region Movement and Dance Liaison Group held their day of Movement and Dance at Bedford on September 8th, a week earlier than in previous years. This proved to be rather close to the holiday period and awkward for rehearsals. However, a group of fourteen people from the Rainmakers, led by Jill, went to great trouble to practise and to make costumes for the Hopak, Sicillian Tarentella and Nirkoda as their offering for the morning display.

As can be seen from the programme, there was a great variety in the activities being shown, all excellent in their way. The Rainmakers' display was put on in two sections to allow time for changes of costumes, and each dance was enthusiastically received but the Hopak must have a special mention.

During the afternoon we all made our choices of activity. Some Rainmakers

tested their ability in Jazz Dancing with the Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing and found it very enjoyable.

Others enthused about the American Square Dance Workshop whilst some had preferred to relax on the floor with the Women's League of Health and Beauty or by rhythmically waving <sup>long</sup> ribbons as directed by the BAGA leader.

Our own International Dancing workshop was crowded and went with a swing as Jill taught a variety of dances to an agile class who learned quickly. We hope we have recruited some of them to our membership.

As we met again for tea everyone agreed that it had been a most stimulating day.



# BEDFORD COLLEGE

## of Higher Education

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**M** MANDER SITE

- ① ROBINSON POOL    ⑫ NEWNHAM TRACK
- ② BUNYAN RECREATION CENTRE
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- ⑤ WARWICK GYMNASIUM    ⑭ LANSDOWNE SITE RECEPTION
- ⑥ BROMHAM ROAD FIELDS    ⑮ BIDDENHAM FIELDS
- ⑦ DANCE DRAMA HALL    ⑯ EASTERN REGION SPORTS COUNCIL

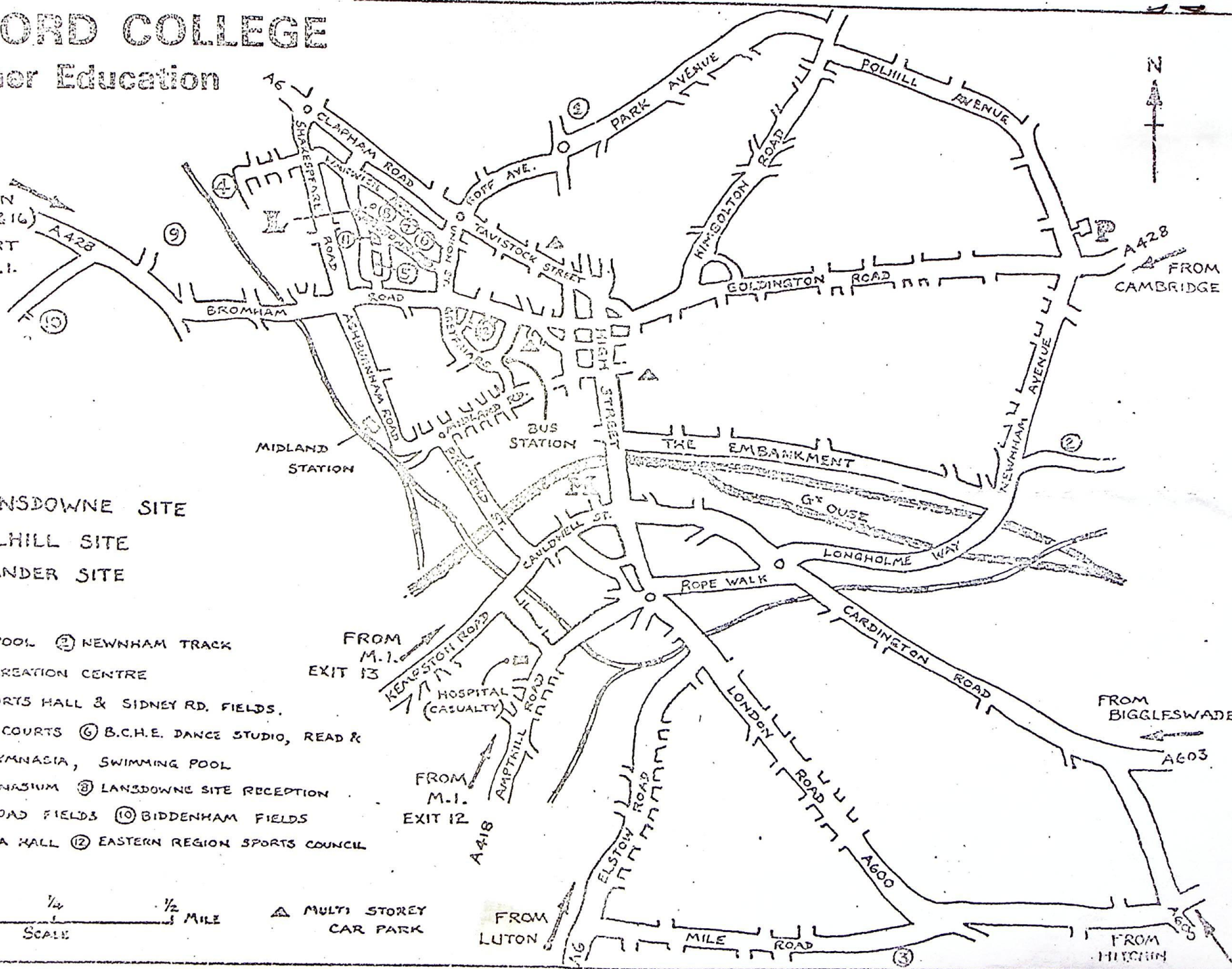
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 SCALE

▲ MULTI STOREY CAR PARK

FROM LUTON

FROM BIGGLESWADE

FROM HUNGMAN



SIFD

Name Mrs. B. Lee..... Number 12.....

EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT AND DANCE LIAISON GROUP

A C C E P T A N C E   C A R D

Day of Movement and Dance - Saturday, 8th  
September, 1979 at Bedford College of Higher  
Education, 37 Lansdowne Road, Bedford.

Fee Paid £1.70 (Course fee only)

This card is issued in lieu of a receipt and you  
should bring this with you on 8th September.



EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT & DANCE LIAISON GROUP

DAY OF MOVEMENT & DANCE

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1979

P R O G R A M M E

- 9.30a.m. Coffee in the College Dining Hall
- 10.00a.m. Welcome & introduction followed by informal short sessions where each organisation shows a 'taster' of its own style of work in the Dance Drama Hall.
- English Folk Dance & Song Society  
Laban Art of Movement Guild  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society  
Medau Society  
Society of International Folk Dance  
Eastern Counties Keep Fit Association  
East Anglian Federation of Square Dance Clubs  
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing  
BAGA - Modern Rhythmic Section
- 12.45p.m. LUNCH
- 
- 1.45 - 4.30p.m. Opportunity for all course members to join in three separate  $\frac{3}{4}$ hr practical sessions with the three organisations of their choice.
- 1.45-2.30p.m. BAGA - Modern Rhythmic Section - Read/Stansfeld Gymnasium  
Imperial Society of Teachers of Dancing - Warwick Gymnasium  
Jazz Dance  
Margaret Morris Movement - Dance Studio  
East Ang. Fed. of Square Dance Clubs - Dance Drama Hall
- 2.45-3.30 Eastern Counties Keep Fit Assoc. - Read/Stansfeld Gymnasium  
Medau Society - Warwick Gymnasium  
Society for International Folk Dancing - Dance Drama Hall
- ~~3.45 - 4.30p.m. English Folk Dance & Song Society - Read/Stansfeld Gymnasium  
Womens League of Health & Beauty - Warwick Gymnasium  
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society - Dance Drama Hall  
Laban Art of Movement Guild - Dance Studio~~
- 4.30p.m. TEA

  
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# **VIDEO TAPE**

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**Activities**

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Published by the  
Sports Council (Eastern Region)  
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## MOVEMENT and DANCE

**Content** The videotape shows excerpts from an informal day of Movement and Dance in the Eastern Region. It illustrates the following different forms:— Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics, Health and Beauty, English Folk Dance, Margaret Morris, Scottish Country Dance, Medau, International Folk Dancing, Dalcroze, Square Dance, Keep Fit.

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**Audience** Of value to all interested in movement and dance — school leavers, students, the community, those at work, the housewives, the active retired and those arranging their recreation.

**Hire Facilities** Produced by the Chiltern Consortium for Bedford College of Higher Education in association with the Sports Council (Eastern Region) the tape may be hired from —

The Chiltern Resources Library  
Wall Hall  
Aldenham  
Watford WD2 8AT

(Please ask for C87 Come Alive 1979 and state video format required)

*Running Time: 31 minutes*

Enquiries may also be made to —  
**The Sports Council**  
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**SPORT FOR ALL**

EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT AND DANCE LIAISON GROUP

DAY OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1979

2.45 - 3.30p.m. Dance Drama Hall

THE SOCIETY FOR INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCING

EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT AND DANCE LIAISON GROUP

DAY OF MOVEMENT AND DANCE

8TH SEPTEMBER, 1979

3.45 - 4.30p.m. Read/Stansfeld Gymnasium

ENGLISH FOLK DANCE & SONG SOCIETY



Report on Barn Dance for North  
Herts. and East Beds. Sailing Club,  
September 8th.

Rainmakers, who were already weary from dancing at Bedford during the day, put on two varied 'Spots' at the Barn Dance run by the North Herts, and East Beds Sailing Club. Our first Spot consisted of:—

Salty Dog Rag, Anne and Janet clogging followed by Nirkoda.

We managed a quick change despite some confusion as to who's dress was who's!

Janet managed to change out of her clogging gear and into her blue and white Israeli dress and get into the circle in time for Zamer Atik. Must be a world record!

(Talking of records, Jill is thinking of entering her 13 changes of clothing during the day into the Guinness Book of Records.)

The second Spot was our peasant spot which was:—

Moonshine, Gota, Kreuz Koenig, Hopak

and lastly Sicilliam Tanantella where everyone was dancing. Warren, who was at the top of the set, had to work the tape recorder.

What a day! What an achievement! I must congratulate everybody on their dancing, energy, humour, lending of costumes, lending of hands at the right moment. You were all marvellous!

Jill

NORTH HERTS. & EAST BEDS.  
SAILING CLUB

### Annual Barn Dance

SATURDAY 8th. SEPTEMBER 1979

TOWN HALL — HITCHIN

7:30 P.M. for 8:00 P.M.

Featuring: BRIAN LIMBRICK with the  
FOREST BAND

TICKETS £1.90

inc. Ploughmans Buffet

Licensed Bar



## Broadwater Day, Sunday September 16th

Eight Rainmakers represented us on a lovely sunny Sunday afternoon in Stevenage. We started off the Arena events and danced:—

Neapolitan Tarantella

Girls' Dance from Kalocsa (+Roy!)

Kreuz Koenig.

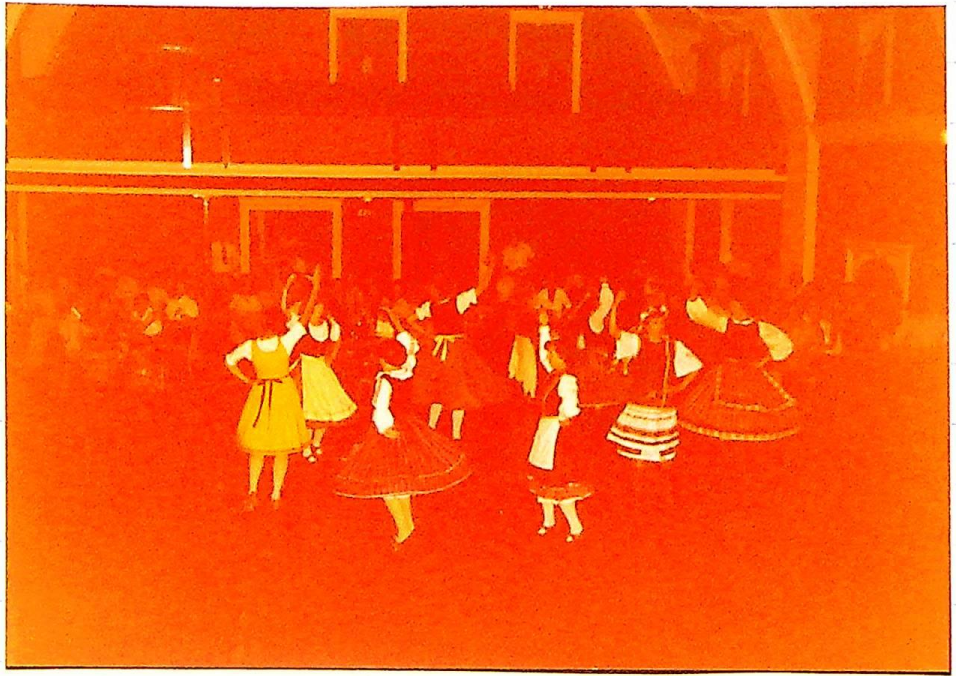
Gota

Ox dance

Hava Nagila

Sicilian Tarantella

All very nicely danced and quite a few people around to watch. Everyone was suggesting that Jill, in Hungarian skirts, should go Paradesending to publicise the group but she was too "chicken"!



Moonshine at Hitchin - September 8th.



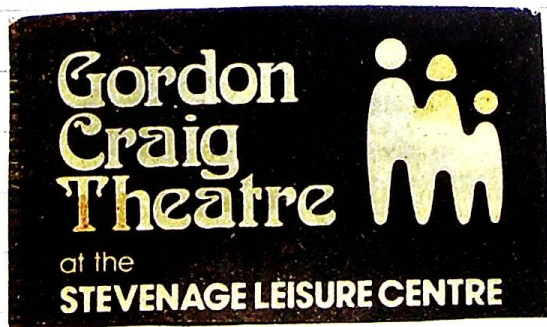
Broadwater Day in Shephalbury Park - Sept. 16th



Saturday, 15th September - Gordon Craig

Many of the group went to watch the Kasatka Cossacks at the Gordon Craig Theatre either at the matinee or in the evening. It was a good, varied show with different dances, costumes and music from various regions, interspersed by singing and instrument spots. Two of the latter were Moonshine and Koropustika ('train couple dance'), both played at incredible speeds.

Unfortunately there were no programmes but we could guess the origin of most of the dances. We saw Georgian, Gypsy, Cossack and Ukrainian - including the Hopak. A pity we couldn't get the dancers to teach our group!



EASTERN REGION MOVEMENT & DANCE LIAISON GROUP  
DAY OF MOVEMENT & DANCE AT BEDFORD

On Saturday, 8th September, fourteen dancers from the Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group from Stevenage went to Bedford College to represent the SIFD at a Day of Dance. During the morning our group was one of many who demonstrated a "taster" of its own style of work. Of the "folk variety" of groups, there were represented the E.F.D.S.S., The Royal Scottish Country Dance Society, and The East Anglian Federation of Square Dance Clubs. There were also a variety of movement groups represented.

At lunchtime we were able to see a film made from the video-taping that was done last year whilst we were performing. Watching ourselves was the best entertainment of the day! (Wouldn't a group improve if it could see its own mistakes on film after each demonstration - but perhaps it would spoil the spirit of folkdancing).

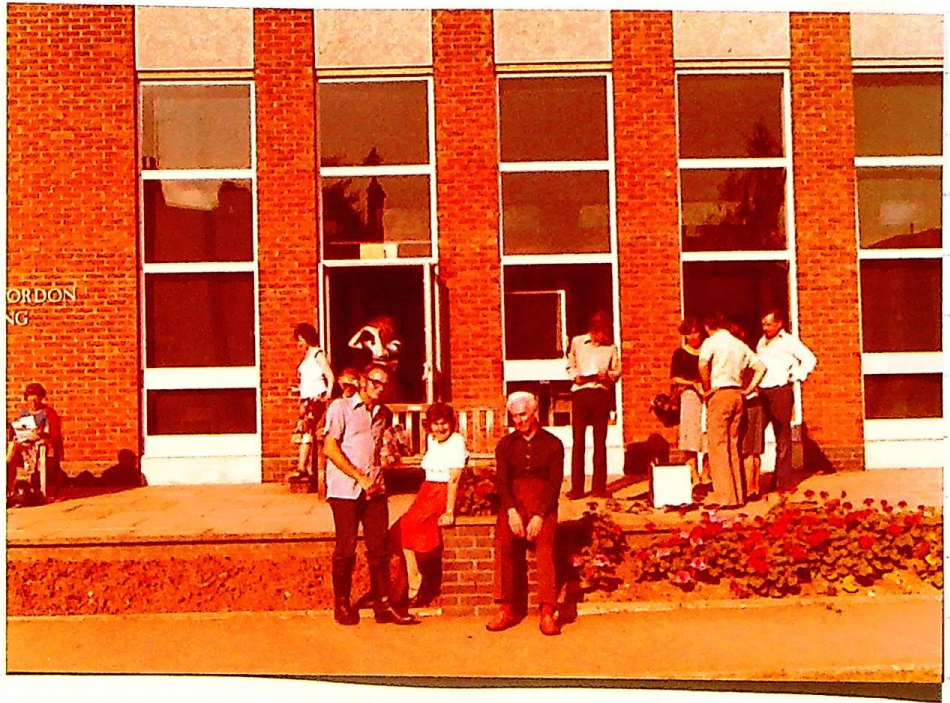
In the afternoon we were invited to take part in workshops run by the other groups. Some of our group did American Square or Jazz dancing, whilst others waved ribbons at a session of Modern Rhythmic Gymnastics. Then came our own workshop which was well and enthusiastically attended. We chose a variety of dances, in lines, circles and sets. The Sicilian Tarantella was popular and looked colourful, with as many tambourines as our group could find.

After the last workshop session, during which we were able to try out yet more styles of dancing, we all went wearily home having learned a great deal from our interchange with other groups. (We didn't stay home for long as we did two 15-minute spots at a Barn Dance at Hitchin Town Hall in the evening!).

\*\*\*\*\*

JILL BRANSBY  
Rainmakers Group





Dancing at Dame Alice Harper School  
Bedford. September 29th. 1979.



Saturday, September 29th. 1979.

One-day School of International Folk  
Dancing.

The organisation of a One-day School of International Folk Dancing had been in Jill's mind for some time. Following the popularity of her Workshop at the Bedford Day of Movement and Dance it was decided that the Rainmakers would take the plunge and, at some financial risk, organise such a day in Bedford.

The Dame Alice Harpur School in Cardington Road was the venue and a delightful place it proved to be. We danced in a very large, light hall looking out into pleasant grounds on a sunny Autumn day. About thirty-two people went along so our expenses were almost covered.

Apart from that it was a most successful day. In the morning Jill taught Little Joseph and Serbian Suite. These dances are familiar to the Rainmakers but there were people



present who had not learned them before.

The tutor who came from the International Folk Dance Society in London was Janet Woolbar, aided by her partner Frank Flannagan.

Janet taught the following dances:—

Oige Ya Vasemba }  
Raksi Ya'ak } Estonia.

Strompt em babilee }  
Scardanala } Swiss

Russian lyrical - Russia

Lublin Polka - Poland.

Palestinian Hora }  
Lamidba } Israel.

After a picnic lunch in the sunshine these dances were revised and danced again on the lawn.

Everyone felt they had learned a lot and had a most enjoyable day. Thanks are extended to all



those who were involved in the organisation and running of the day particularly Jill, Roy, George and Sheila from Rainmakers and of course Janet who taught so clearly and enthusiastically.

We hope we shall enrol some new members from the publicity of this day.

## Raining champions dance

A HIGH-STEPPING contingent of folk dancers transformed the hall at Dame Alice Harpur School into an international ballroom on Saturday.

Members of the Rainmakers International Folk Dance Club from Stevenage, led by Mrs Jill Bransby, joined local enthusiasts to perform native dances.

Rainmakers International were formed in 1976 at the end of the famous drought-stricken summer and derive their name from the fact that on the day they performed an old Israeli rain dance, the heavens opened for the first time in months.



Mrs Jill Bransby (centre) demonstrates dance steps.



1979 Jumble Sale. October 5th. 7.30p.m.

Once again we are needing funds. This was the best profit yet — £38.

**RAINMAKERS**  
**JUMBLE SALE**  
**CHURCH HALL**  
**Albert Street, Stevenage**  
**Friday, 5th October**  
at 7.30 pm

## THE RAINMAKERS DAY COURSE AT BEDFORD

Way back at the beginning of this year, returning from a Cecil Sharp House Dance, three of us were throwing a few ideas about whilst weaving through the traffic back to Stevenage. Initially, we were planning our display and workshop to be held at Bedford College in September, organized by the Council of Sport with various other dance groups. This would be our third year of being involved in this annual event and we were concerned that each year at the end of the day we had been inundated with so many enquiries from dancers who lived within reasonable distance from Bedford, but too far from Stevenage. We felt there must be a way of introducing these enthusiasts to general international dancing, and decided on a Day Course in Bedford. We would need a school hall, a good all-round teacher preferably from the S.I.F.D., and as well as the usual help from our members we would need a modicum of luck to make the day financially viable. After pursuing our plans the great day arrived - 29th September 1979.

The venue was Dame Alice Harpur School situated in Bedford. The instructor was Janet Woolbar, renowned in the S.I.F.D for her expertise, assisted by Frank Flanagan and using the latest piece of equipment recently purchased by the Society, proving its worth in speed change, tone and volume. The day turned out to be really nice, and driving out to Bedford that fine September morning made us feel pleased with life and eager to get dancing.

Jill Bransby started the day off by introducing everyone to the Serbian Suite of dances and Niguno Shel Yossi. Then the local press reporter arrived and interrupted the proceedings by taking photographs and asking questions. Soon after this, Janet Woolbar took over, commencing with the two Estonian dances Oige Ya Vasemba and Raaksi Jaak. After a quick cuppa we were twisting and twirling to the two Swiss dances "Strompt em Babilee" and Scardanala. The Russian Lyrical came next, and what a joy to learn such a majestic dance properly, after having blundered around at Cecil Sharp House chancing our luck.

The Palestinian Hora, or New Kolo as some of us old'ns remember it, came next, and that was sufficient to tire most people until they had eaten their packed lunches outside on the terrace and lawn. The Israeli Lamidbar got us going nicely in the afternoon, followed by the Polish Lublin Polka. Another cuppa and then outside in the afternoon sunshine on the lawn for a recap. This was a really lovely way to finish a most successful day.

The members of Rainmakers worked hard in organizing the day. The school was exceptionally well kept and situated in nice surroundings. Frank Flanagan, as usual, did the right thing in the right place all the time, and last but certainly not least Janet Woolbar excelled herself in successfully adding more dances to our repertoire. Everybody attending, as well as the Rainmakers, expressed the view that this venture should not be the last as it had been most exciting and enjoyable.



Minsden - Thursday, October 18th.

Once again the Rainmakers went to entertain the old people living in Minsden Home, Hitchin.

They were very pleased to see us and seemed to enjoy our dancing. A few commented on the pretty costumes. The room was hot and our programme non-stop, so rather exhausting. We danced several old favourites but included some new ones this time i.e. Palestinian Hora, Trojky, Russian Lyrical and the Serbian Suite, also a French gavotte which we were taught by Diana recently. Moonshine was recorded at top speed and it almost reduced the dancers to a state of collapse!

However, a welcome cup of tea was produced to revive us. We are always welcomed at Minsden.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - FRIDAY, 27TH OCTOBER 1979

AGENDA

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.
2. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES.
3. SECRETARY'S REPORT.
4. TREASURER'S REPORT.
5. ELECTION
6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS.
7. CHAIRMAN'S CONCLUDING REMARKS.



BALANCE 8.9.78 \$40.71p.

YEAR 78-79.

SUBSCRIPTIONS	155 - 00
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIPS	10 - 00
DONATIONS	22 - 51
RAFFLES	9 - 75
JUNKIE SALES	43 - 64
VISITORS	2 - 05
COLLECTION	6 - 47½
PHOTOGRAPHS	1 - 30½
S.S.P.D.	15 - 00
CANCELLED DISPLAY	20 - 00
REFUND ON TRANSPORT	3 - 92

HIRE OF HALL	142 - 50
ADVERTISE	14 - 32
SQUASH	6 - 19
COOKIES	12 - 35
TAPES	8 - 09
MUSICIAN'S	30
TRANSPORT	23 - 60
VISITING TEACHERS	2 - 50
FOODS	2 - 01
EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	8 - 45
MEMBERSHIPS	6 - 30
NEW EQUIPMENT	21 - 36
POSTERS	5 - 25
DISPLAY	25 - 00
REFUND TO MEMBER	2 - 00
REFERS	1 - 57
INSURANCE	5 - 00
ENTERTAINMENT	1 - 00

8305 - 15  
~~8305 - 15~~

8300 - 27  
84 - 23  
~~8300 - 27~~

8315 - 16  
~~8315 - 16~~

END OF YEAR BALANCE \$44 - 29

Friday, 27th October 1979.

## Annual General Meeting.

Fourteen members were present.

The following officers were elected:—

Chairman — Mrs. J. Bransky.

Secretary — Mrs. S. Leavy

Treasurer — Mr. R. Bowtell.

Social Events — Mrs. E. Stillwell.

Publicity Officer — Mrs. B. Lee.

The retiring treasurer, Mr. G. Lowlett was warmly thanked for his work for the club.



Friday, November 16th. 1979.

Betty Harvey, with her partner, Frank ~~Harvey~~, paid her second visit to Stevenage Rainmakers Club tonight.

Almost all our members and a few visitors were present.

Betty taught: -

Krzyzok (crossing dance)

hasowiak

Kaczok (which we had done in 1976).

She also went over Polonez  
Oberek

Walczyk (Little Waltz)  
and Polka Lubelski  
(Lublin Polka.)

We marvelled at Betty's skill, grace and stamina especially when she remarked that she is an old-age pensioner - shame on those puffing, exhausted members! She had also brought some beautiful Polish costumes to show us.

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening and learned a lot.

Visit to the Leasiders at Luton -  
Monday, November 19th 1979.

Some time ago we were invited to take over the evening for the Leasiders English Folk Dancing Club on November 19th, to teach them some International Folk Dances. Their class begins at 7.45 p.m. and fortunately Jill had asked if they would begin the evening with English dances as it is quite a journey from Stevenage to Leagrave, on the Dunstable side of Luton. Little maps were thoughtfully provided and several car-loads of Rainmakers set off. Soon we were stopping under street lamps trying to puzzle our way through Luton's unfamiliar, badly signed, complex road system. I think every-one got lost. Henry and Betty came to a sudden halt beside a rugby pitch - wrong school! However, by 8.30 p.m. all the Rainmakers had arrived at Leagrave Junior School to start a very happy evening.



Jill had planned a varied programme of dances, some for display but the majority for everyone to join in. She worked very hard, teaching, dancing and calling. The heasiders joined all the dances with no persuasion necessary and great enthusiasm. They made us feel so welcome and we all enjoyed ourselves. If only our two clubs were nearer and we could spend more evenings together. We hope they can come to our Christmas party and not get lost in Stevenage.

Friday, November 23rd.

Tonight Charles Day came from the Staplers English Folk Dancing Club Hitchin, to teach us Parson's Farewell.

He patiently went through it many times for our benefit and pleasure. It is a complex English dance with a lovely tune. Now we feel we have a much better idea of how it goes - some people actually know it! The rest of us must practise on.



Friday, December 14th 1979.

This was our Christmas Party night. The weather was cold. There was no heating in the hall but Jill soon had everyone glowing and puffing with a few of her "warming up" dances in quick succession. We were very pleased to welcome at least ten guests from the Leasiders English Folk Dancing Club in Luton and we enjoyed very much, the English dances chosen by their caller, which were interspersed with our favourite international dances.

A live band and an excellent visiting accordionist from Nottingham gave the dancing an extra lift and the dancers great pleasure.

Special mention must be made of Eileen who organised and made many of the delicious "International" refreshments. She had also decorated the hall most attractively.

It was a most successful conclusion to a happy term's dancing.

Friday, 4th January 1980.

The first session of the New Year for the Rainmakers, and apparently the only club with a class this week. We discovered this from Cyril Fleisher, a visitor to the club who had come all the way from Harlow for the sake of an evenings folk dancing. He has lived in America for thirteen years where he has become "hooked" on International Folk dancing.

He taught us three dances: -

Hora de Mina . Rumania .

La Bastingué . French-Canadian .

La Bas . Armenia .



Sunday, January 6th 1980.

A party of Rainmakers travelled up to Cecil Sharp House in London to attend an International Dance there. We were pleased to find many of the dances in the evening's programme were in our repertoire so we were able to join in for most of the evening. The dance ended at 10-00pm.

It was extremely kind of Eileen's friend to drive us in her mini-bus. As this was over-subscribed, Adrian kindly took others in his car.

Sunday, February 3rd. 1980

This was a most exciting evening for the Rainmakers as we had been invited to put on a display at Cecil Sharp House, London, during the International Folk Dance Society's dance there at 7 p.m.

Our audience would all be International Folk Dancers and it would include several dancing teachers so we felt honoured to be asked and also somewhat worried about our performance.

Much thought was given to the choice of dances for the programme, costumes were prepared and many practices took place on club nights.

The dances were:-

Girls' Dance from Kaloska.

Hava Nigila.

Clog Dancing by Janet.

Parson's Farewell.

hublin Polka.

We all did our best and we received



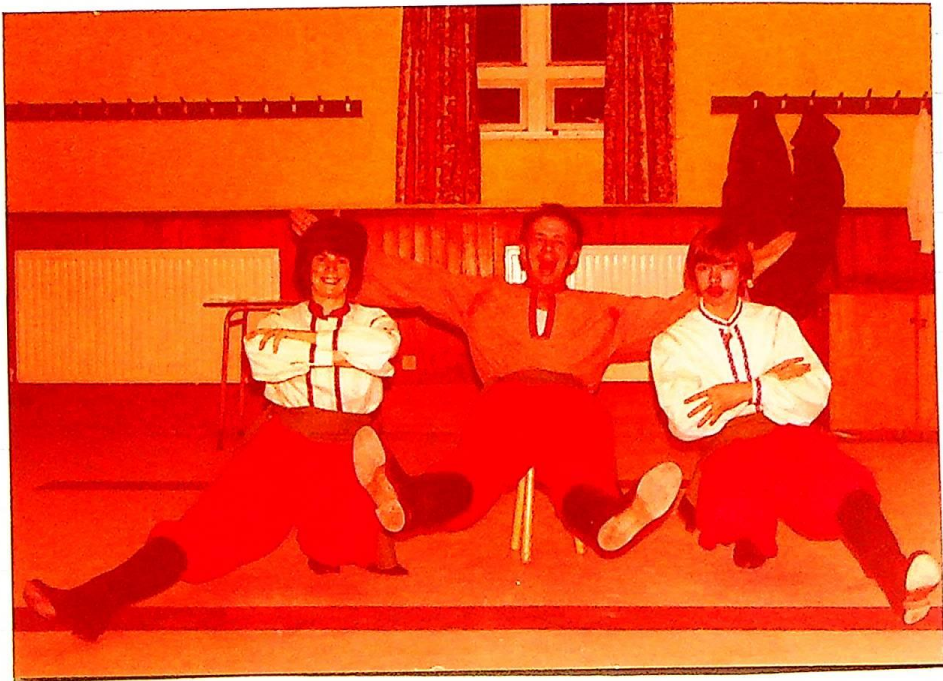
a very warm ovation from the onlookers. During the rest of the evening many kind and complimentary remarks were made to Jill and other club members so we felt that, though our dancing technique is not perfect we had given others an enjoyable time.

We were impressed by the sincere welcome we were given and were also grateful for the delicious refreshments provided immediately after our dancing.

Once again Eileen's friend kindly provided mini-bus transport and our thanks are also due to Sheila's husband, who is not a Rainmaker, but who expertly helped with the music and transported more dancers.

It was a memorable evening.

Practising the Hopak.



At Cecil Sharp House.







Hitchin Gathering. 1980.  
This was held earlier, March 1st, this  
year

Jill Bransby

Evening Programme

The Rainmakers dance  
in The Main Hall at  
8 p.m.

The Playford Dance at  
10 p.m.

Refreshments 8.45 - 9.15  
Your hostess - Cecilia.





**HITCHIN  
GATHERING**

**1980**









THE TWENTY-SECOND HITCHIN GATHERING

THE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND - LEADER: ROGER NICHOLLS

M.C. BRIAN LIMBRICK

OVERTURE THE ORANGE AND BLUE BAND  
STAPLERS LET'S GO WITH STAPLERS  
HEMEL HEMPSTEAD LIESBET'S DOUBLE FIVE  
GAILLARDE SLOS  
BOYS FROM THE NORTH  
OFFLEY MORRIS MEN TRUNKLES )  
BOBBY AND JOAN ) FIELDTOWN  
NORTH HERTS. REEL CLUB THE LAIRD OF MILTON'S DAUGHTER  
FAIR DONALD  
THE FALLS OF ROGIE  
LYNNE HERAUD AND SUE ASHBY FOLK SONGS  
ROUNDAABOUTERS 'THE DEVILISH ROUNDAABOUTERS'  
WATFORD AND GARSTON CLUBS CHILDGROVE  
AMARILLIS  
HYDE PARK  
STEVENAGE SWORD DANCERS RAPPER SWORD DANCE  
CHILDREN'S DANCING FOR ALL CHILDREN AND MUMS AND DADS  
DANCING FOR ALL THIS ONE FOR ADULTS ONLY!

STANDON MORRIS MEN

↓ ENGLISH MISCELLANY

↓  
DOUBLE DUTCH

LEASIDERS - LUTON

'ALBERT STREET'

CHILDREN'S DANCING

FINE COMPANIONS

MASSED MORRIS

THE CONTRA

↓ STAPLERS' FINALE

LICHFIELD MORRIS DANCES

GREEN WILLOW  
CHEVIOT RAM  
BUTTERED PEAS  
SHEEP'S HILL

TRADITIONAL CLOG DANCES

GLADYS' GALOP  
ALL THE YOUNG FOLK  
THE COWSLIP

SING-A-LONG

FOR ALL CHILDREN AND MUMS AND DADS

AN ORIGINAL DANCE AND TUNE  
SWEDISH MASQUERADE  
CYCLING MAY

CONSTANT BILLY )  
BLACK JOKE ) ADDERBURY

A WELSH SEQUENCE

'HASTE TO THE DORSET WEDDING'

.....

Light refreshments are available throughout the afternoon in the gymnasium.

Our grateful thanks to THE HITCHIN RANGERS who are in charge, both there and in the cloakrooms.

There is also an English Folk Dance and Song Society Sales Desk in the gymnasium.



Secretaries of Clubs and Groups 1979/80

The Contra  
Miss M. Thatcher  
021 329 2651

Hemel Hempstead  
Mrs. S. Anderson,  
Hemel Hempstead 68636

Bedford Fine Companions  
Miss J. Sheffield,  
Bedford 63266

Staplers' Country Dance Club  
Mr. D. Millman,  
Hitchin 59805

North Herts. Reel Club  
Mrs. J. Warburton,  
Hitchin 812691

Rainmakers' International Folk  
Dance Group  
Mrs. S.M. Leavy,  
Home Cottage, 40 Shephall Green,  
Stevenage, Herts. SG2 9XR

Roundabouts' Country  
Dance Club  
Mrs. P. Cropton,  
Stevenage 55360

Offley Morris Men  
Mr. M. Elliott,  
Letchworth 74986

English Miscellany  
Peter Lane,  
Harpenden 64084

Albert Street  
Mrs. M.J. Colbeck  
Hitchin 53763

Stevenage Rapper  
A. Short,  
5 Bawdsley Close,  
Stevenage, Herts.

Double Dutch  
Misses Susan and Anne Holland,  
Much Hadham 2898

Lynne Heraud and Sue Ashby  
c/o Sue Ashby,  
65 Peascroft Road,  
Bennetts End, Hemel Hempstead  
HP3 8ER

Chris. Rutt  
Hitchin 700451

.....

STAPLERS' TOWN BARN DANCE

on NATIONAL FOLK DAY, SAT. JUNE 21st

at HITCHIN TOWN HALL, 7.30 p.m.

M.C. BRIAN LIMBRICK with THE FOREST BAND

Admission by ticket - available soon - Enquiries Hitchin 56353

Young Folks, Old Folks, Everyone & All  
Lets Go To The Gathering Thats Held In Our  
Town Hall  
We've Come To Sing, We've Come to Dance,  
We've Come To See The Show  
.. And We'll All Be Back Next Year Just To  
Have Another Go !

*With Compliments*



Staplers Country Dance Club

*Rainmakers*



## The Gathering Dances. - 7 p.m.

We were not asked to dance during the afternoon this year but were given two spots, 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. at the Gathering Dances.

Our programme was:-

    Lublin Polka  
    Athen Danzer (A French hoop dance)  
    Hopak.

The slippery floor of Hitchin Town Hall was a hindrance to quick turns and we felt that our first performance did not go as well as it should have. However, the audience clapped loudly and said how much they admired the agility of the Hopak dancers and the pretty costumes.

We had made new costumes for the hoop dance and Eileen, aided by several others had gone to enormous trouble to decorate the hoops with flowers.

Perhaps we were more relaxed by 10 p.m. but we felt happier in the Playford Hall.

# THE STAPLERS

COUNTRY DANCE CLUB  
HITCHIN

THE ENGLISH FOLK DANCE AND SONG SOCIETY

73, Hexton Road,  
Barton-le-Clay,  
Bedford,  
MK45 4JZ

March 4<sup>th</sup> 1980

Dear Rainmakers,

I am writing on behalf of  
Staplers to thank you very much for giving us  
two immensely enjoyable displays of international  
dancing during our evening dances.

Your dynamic dancing enhanced by such  
colourful costumes and expertise provided an  
excellent contrast to the evening dances for  
which we are indeed most grateful.

We really appreciate all the hard work, time  
and effort which you obviously put into your  
dancing to give us a splendid and much enjoyed  
performance.

I myself thoroughly enjoy watching your  
displays and marvel at the vitality, energy  
and obvious enjoyments which you put into your



performance.

Thanking you again and looking  
forward to seeing Rainmakers again in the future

Yours Sincerely

Cecilia A. Mills

(Gathering Secretary)

Dancing at Hitchin. March 1st. 1980



Arku Dantzer.







Hopak



Lublin Polka.

## Scottish Ceilidh.

On Saturday 8th March a group of Rainmakers went to Balls Park College at Hertford. Some of us were kindly driven by Eileen's Eileen in her mini-bus. We demonstrated a peasant spot first which included the Ox-dance performed by Roy and Adrian, the Girls' Dance from Kalosca and lastly Kreuz Köening. Roy and Adrian changed into Lederhösens to dance this with Sue and Joyce. The costumes (and the dance!) looked super.

After the interval we danced Nirkoda. This was the first time in public for Michaela, Sarah and Adrian and they danced it very well. The whole thing went with great liveliness. We listened to a violin recital, singing, the bagpipes (especially for Peg!) and a sketch which was also a part of the entertainment at the Ceilidh.

In between this we danced reels and strathspeys with Scottish elegance, (well almost!), showing that we are truly International Dancers.





South East Herts. Scottish Country Dance Society

20, Lynton Parade,  
Turner's Hill,  
CHESTNUT,

HERTS EN8 8LF.

9<sup>th</sup> March, 1980,

Dear Mrs. Leavy,

I would like to thank you and "The Rainmakers" for dancing at our Ceilidh last night. In spite of all your efforts, I am glad to say it has been a good drying day here — although I daresay Balts Park College has suffered a localized deluge!

Seriously, though, I found your dancing not only great fun, but also very well done. My personal favourite was the fighting dance at the beginning — a very unusual type,

RAINMAKERS  
**JUMBLE SALE**  
CHURCH HALL  
Albert Street, Stevenage  
**Friday, 28th March**  
at 7.30 pm

Funds are needed once again!  
The profit on this sale was just  
over £27. Ten pounds of this  
is to be spent on some tapes  
for dances.



STATEMENT OF JUMBLE SALE 28th March 1980

INCOME

RAFFLE £3-00

DONATIONS £1-50

JUMBLE £30-50 $\frac{1}{2}$

£35-00 $\frac{1}{2}$

EXPENDITURE

ADVERT (NEWSPAPER) £3-75

HALL HIRE £4-00

---

£7-75

EXCESS OVER EXPENDITURE £27-25 $\frac{1}{2}$

---

£35-00 $\frac{1}{2}$

## Barkway Street Market. May 17th 1980.

It does not seem a year since I last wrote about the Rainmakers visit to Barkway. Once again we were warmly welcomed and invited into the home of some of the organisers who live beside the school.

There seemed to be more stalls than ever and as the fame of the street market is spreading, more people crowding round them and spilling into the roads. There were about twenty Rainmakers dancing in the school playground and at times we had barely room to leap to the side.

This year we danced in the morning. Our programme was:-

La Bastringue

Kreuz Koenig

Ox Dance (Adrian and Roy)

The Israeli Suite.

Hoop Dance

Neapolitan Tarantella.

Sicilian Tarantella.



A shortened version was repeated at midday.

The collection of just over £12 (the same as last year I see) was shared between village charities and the Rainmakers.

The organisers, hoping of course for a fine day, were doubtful about inviting us to attend lest someone heeded our rainmaking rituals. However, the sun shone on us all dancing, browsing, picnicking in a meadow, so we were assured of a regular "spot" there in the future.

The Children's Gathering - Baldock.  
June 21st 1980. Brandles School.

This was held in Baldock at the school where Eileen works and the first thing we saw, on parking the car, was the goat that inflicted severe injury to her leg earlier this year. Fortunately, she <sup>(the goat!)</sup> has behaved since, and Eileen was dancing with the Rainmakers today.

We had been invited by Ann Gray, mother of two of our members who was M.C. of the Gathering, to entertain the children for a quarter of an hour during the afternoon. The hall was packed and the children thoroughly enjoyed themselves dancing English Country dances.

The Offley Morris Men and a team of Stappers danced before us.

Our programme was:-

The Israeli Suite.

Ox Dance - (Adrian and Roy.)

Neapolitan Tarantella



Sicillian Tarantella.  
~~La Bastriague.~~

Our audience seemed to enjoy seeing  
International dancing and we hope  
we have interested some future members.

The Coffee Pot Club at Howgills,  
Letchworth. June 26th 1980.

This club appears to be for single people in their late twenties and thirties who meet to chat, have social outings or "interest" evenings. They asked Jill to lead an evening of International Folk Dancing so about a dozen Rainmakers went along to help the dancing.

The meeting place was the Quakers' Meeting House, a charming house with a garden which appeared to be a private residence from the outside. We danced in a high, oak-panelled room with a gallery round it. It was a place full of atmosphere but it was rather too small for our style of dances, especially as all the Coffee Pot members joined in all but a few demonstration dances.

Jill led a varied programme of our easier dances for about 1½ hours non-stop. She must have been exhausted. We hope the Club enjoyed it.



Stevenage Roundabouts Folk Day 1980.  
July 5th, (Saturday.)

The Roundabouts' annual contribution to International Folk Day took a different form this year. The Roundabouts' dancers, with their guests from Stevenage Sword, Staplers' Morris, American Square Dancing Club and the Rainmakers, met in Stevenage New Town Centre by the clock at 11 a.m. and danced in turn until 12.30 p.m. The display dances were interspersed by dances for all dancers and a few in which the general public could join.

This arrangement was not quite so enjoyable from some dancers' point of view as the dancing tour of previous years but it was less tiring. The public seemed to enjoy it, contributing over £89 to the rattling tins. This was almost as much as last year.

The day concluded with a very lively dance held at Warren Springs' Social Club.

Friday, July 11th.

The Leesiders visited our club again for our "end of session" party. We shared an evening of English and International Dances. The Leesiders provided callers who did some interesting and different dances. ●

Unfortunately many of our own members were unable to attend as, being near to the end of the school term, there were concerts, French trips, dinners, Parents Evenings etc. clashing.

As we said to the Leesiders, "It is nothing personal!" We were therefore outnumbered which meant that Rainmakers had to work hard getting the refreshments ready (and going to ● find more food - thank you Sue and Adrian!) putting up decorations, sorting out the raffle, clearing up afterwards. Thank you to the helpers.

We made £7 on the raffle and all the visitors enjoyed themselves.



Letchworth Fun Day - Saturday, July 12th  
1980.

Rainmakers danced as part of the "One Day Fun Day" at Letchworth.

We did an half hour spot which wore us all out! Janet Cropton clogged a Durham Waltz which gave us a breather for a while. The rest of our programme included two Tarantellas, Kreuz Koening, Gota, Ox Dance Trojky, Lublin Polka, Parson's Farewell and the Israeli Suite.

The performances were slick and generally seemed well received.

Thankyou to all who took part - we needed every one of you. Jill.



# MAZOWSZE

**MAZOWSZE**, Poland's premier dance company, returns to London for the first time for four years, presenting the beautiful and spectacular programme of dance and song that has thrilled audiences all over the world with its verve and charm. Direct from a triumphant world tour, the company brings some 1,000 dazzling and elaborate costumes, creating a riotous swirl of colour and excitement. This is indeed a unique opportunity to see one of the world's greatest dance companies.

"This Company is magnificent!"  
— *Daily Mail*

"What vigour! What gusto! I cordially recommend a visit!"  
— *Sunday Times*

"For sheer exuberance and joyous zest, it would be hard to find a match for Mazowsze . . . They radiate happiness."  
— *New York Daily News*

"The most gorgeous and lavishly costumed of all their kind."  
— *The Guardian*

"All of the musicals of Broadway put together could not offer the joyous zest, the dancing skill and the wondrous costumes of the Mazowsze."  
— *New York Daily News*

"Exquisite costumes, delicate and flamboyant, dynamic dancers . . . A whirlwind of youth and beauty."  
— *Figaro, Paris*



## Poland's Greatest Dance Company

**Tickets £1.75 £3.25 £4.50 £5.75 £7.00** from the Box Office (01-928 3191) and agents  
*Student Stand-by Ticket Scheme: Unsold tickets will be sold at £2 upon production of card 1 hour before performance.*



Letchworth Fun Day - Saturday, July 12th  
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We did an half hour spot which wore us all out! Janet Cropton clogged a Durham Waltz which gave us a breather for a while. The rest of our programme included two Tarantellas, Kreuz Koening, Gota, Ox Dance Trojky, Lublin Polka, Parson's Farewell and the Israeli Suite.

The performances were slick and generally seemed well received.

Thankyou to all who took part - we needed every one of you. Jill.

Thursday, July 24th.

As you see from the handbill, the Mazowsze Dancers from Poland were in London.

Henny and Betty went to see them at the Royal Festival Hall. It was a supremely well dressed, slick, choreographed performance. The evening programme was most exhilarating and enjoyable, though rather short but we felt it was not really Folk Dancing. The agility and grace of the dancers was superb, as were their costumes. Some of the dances we know were just recognisable, swiftly blending into other dances. It was a thoroughly professional show.



International Folk Festival at  
Sidmouth, Dorset. August 1st - 8th 1980.  
Report by Jill Bransby.

There were quite a few members of "Rainmakers" at Sidmouth International Folklore Festival which was held from 1st to 8th August. To give a full report of the festival would be impossible as there is so much happening all the time. Luckily there were old hands such as Sue and John Cox and Adrian to advise.

Obviously the performances of the foreign teams were of great interest and any opportunity to meet the teams was taken by storm by Rainmakers (-e Roundabouts, by the way!) The overseas teams were as follows:-

Denmark - Danica Truppen

France - Group Folklorique Berry

Hungary - Bokreta Folk Dance Ensemble

Israel - Safad Dance Group.

Italy - Sbandieratori dei Borghi e Sestieri Fiorentini.

Mexico - Grupo Folklorico de la  
Universidad de Guadalajara.  
Sri Lanka - Pulasthi Art Circle.

We learned quite a few simple couple dances with the French group from Le Berry and became quite expert at kissing! We danced with this group at 'Meet the Team' event, where we asked if we could dance La Bourée Pastourelle with them. They had performed it earlier in the week. They were surprised that we knew it. We managed to dance this again with them on a damp evening on the Esplanade preceding the fireworks. We also had another opportunity to practise kissing at the Balfour Arms and learned a new <sup>set</sup> dance called Bourée Musée (sp?) which the group had performed as part of their performance at the Arena earlier.

From Danica Truppen, we learned how to do a "flying hold for "Little Man in a Fix". We had a superb



pub evening at the Balfour Arms with the Danes, where we danced in the garden, simple dances like Sextor. We also watched a costume show, by torchlight (battery variety in the failing light!) including a couple coming out in their nightshirts and getting dressed in their many layers of elegant costumes. The superb Danish musicians played later indoors. We were charmed by the Danish Group and voted them the "Tops". Their dancing was lively, stylish & interesting although they danced fairly simple dances.

We also managed to Czardas with the Hungarians at their Meet the <sup>Team</sup> People effort. Conversation was limited to dance steps as there was an obvious language barrier!

Rainmakers even found themselves performing. We offered to busk on the Esplanade and duly turned up to find that we were put on at Port Royal as a performance, following all the illustrious costumed groups with their musicians. Six of us danced Neopolitan Tarantella

(Sheila wresting a tambourine from an unsuspecting bystander's grasp seconds before she jumped on.) Adrian and Gordon performed the Ox-dansen and Ann, Jill and Sue performed Hava Nagila, hoping that the Israeli Team was somewhere else! Overheard was "Oh, the Israelis are performing", so perhaps it looked alright even if only in T-shirts (Rainmakers) and skirts. Perhaps another year we will bring some costumes, tapes etc. and do a bit more 'busking'.

Who is coming next year?



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NORTH HER

## Prize from behind the Iron Curtain

FIRST priority on Miss Isabel Lamont's list when she visited romantic Bueharest was finding a genuine Rumanian folk costume to buy.

A member of the Rainmakers International folk dance group, Miss Lamont was only able to fulfil her ambition by chance.

"There were blouses all over the place", she explained. "And you could buy a wrap-around skirt they use in some regions very easily. But I just happened to find a shop that sold whole costumes."

### Launch

Miss Lamont returned with her prize two weeks ago and plans to launch it formally at a Rainmaker's evening in September.

Her costume, which belongs to the Vlasva region of Rumania, consists of a cream underskirt and wide-sleeved blouse, both embroidered, a pleated black overskirt with red and yellow decoration, and a red insert which fits under the skirt opening. There is also a coloured sash and an embroidered stole which is worn over the head.

A member of the Rainmakers for three years, Miss Lamont, of Cannix Close, Stevenage, is now their wardrobe mistress, another reason for her desire to buy an authentic costume.

If any readers would like to examine Miss Lamont and her regalia at first hand, the club is now launching a promotion campaign. The Rainmakers are named after one of the first dances they performed in 1976, coinciding with the end of the great drought.

They specialise in foreign dances from such exotic places as Greece, Russia and Hungary and can be contacted through their secretary, Mrs. Sheila Leavy, at 10 Orchard Road, Hitchin.

North Herts  
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September 4th.  
1980.

N.B.

Isabel danced  
Hava Nagila in  
Romania to the  
music of a  
Romanian band!



MISS Isabel Lamont achieved her ambition during a visit to Bucharest, but only by chance.

Miss Lamont, pictured above, a member of the Rainmakers International folk dance group, wanted to buy a genuine Rumanian folk costume.

"There were blouses all over the place," he said, "And you could buy a wrap-around skirt they use in some regions very easily. But I just happened to find a shop that sold whole costumes."

Miss Lamont, who lives in Cannix Close, Stevenage, plans to launch her costume at a Rainmakers' evening later this month. She is also wardrobe mistress to the group.

Her costume belongs to the Vlasva region of Rumania. It consists of a cream underskirt and wide-

Isabel has  
a lucky  
find . . .

sleeved blouse, both embroidered, a pleated black overskirt with red and yellow decoration, and a red insert which fits under the skirt opening. There is also a coloured sash and an embroidered stole which is worn over the head.

The Rainmakers are named after one of the first dances they performed in 1976, coinciding with the end of the great drought. They specialise in foreign dances from such countries as Greece, Russia and Hungary. Anyone interested should contact the secretary, Mrs. Sheila Leavy, of 10 Orchard Road, Hitchin.