

RAINMAKERS' SCRAPBOOK

VOLUME 20 2001~2002

Volume 20

The
Rainmakers'
Scrapbook

From

September 2001

To

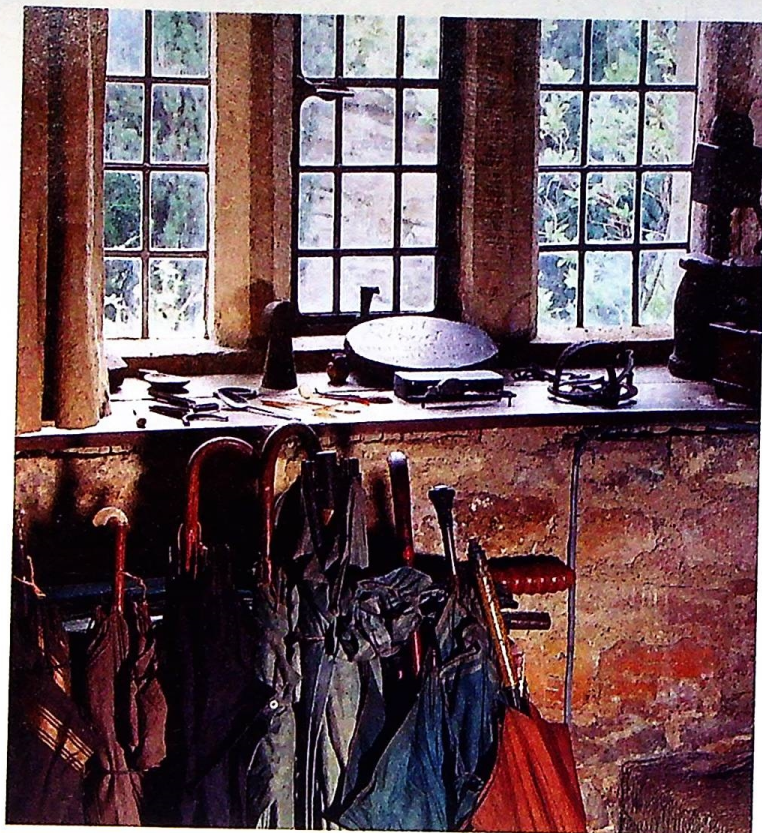
August 2002

Cover picture:—

People of Peru.



Pushkar Camel Fair, Rajasthan. Various folk costumes!



FOUL WEATHER FRIENDS

Oliver Garnett *tries not to have your eye out as he unfurls the history of the umbrella*

The year 2000 was supposed to be the Year of the Dome. Thanks to the weather, it turned out to be the year of another similarly shaped, but rather more useful, invention – the umbrella.

The word derives from the Latin *umbra* (meaning 'shade'), and the earliest recorded examples, which date back at least 3,000 years, were used to protect delicate complexions from the sun, rather than to keep off the rain. Umbrellas became symbols of authority, being carried in ceremonial processions over Roman popes, Venetian doges and Chinese emperors. The word was also applied to small garden buildings, in which one could shelter from the rain, such as the Gothic Umbrello at Stowe.

The most famous umbrella in literature is probably that made by Robinson Crusoe out of animal skins. For years afterwards, umbrellas were known as 'Robinsons' in France, where they were particularly popular with both men and women. When Lt-Col James Wolfe of Quebec fame visited Paris in 1752, he noted: 'The people here

use umbrellas in hot weather to defend them from the sun and something of the same kind to secure them from the snow and rain. I wonder that a practice so useful is not introduced into England where there are such frequent showers, and especially in the country, where they can be expanded without any inconveniency.'

Despite the efforts of Wolfe and others to popularise the umbrella among British men, it was frowned on as an effeminate French fad for much of the eighteenth century. The Duke of Wellington was particularly cross when some of his officers were seen sheltering under umbrellas on the battlefield, although he himself used one that incorporated a sword stick.

The early models, which had whalebone spokes, were heavy, awkward to open, and liable to collapse at the wrong moment. From the 1840s, when metal frames were introduced, they became increasingly com-

pact, and the tightly rolled umbrella came to symbolise the city gent. Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain was famous for his furled umbrella, which accompanied him on his ill-fated flight to Munich to appease Hitler in 1938. It proved of little help in the cataclysmic deluge that followed.

Umbrellas have many uses. They can encourage romance: Jo March, the heroine of Louisa May Alcott's *Little Women*, is proposed to under one. Winnie-the-Pooh converts an upturned umbrella into a boat in which to rescue Piglet. And if you are Mary Poppins, they can even help you fly.

Umbrellas are more often lost than found, but right at the end of Frederick Ashton's ballet *La Fille Mal Gardée*, the disappointed suitor Alain returns to retrieve his much-loved scarlet umbrella. Charles Paget Wade went a stage further and made a collection of over 50, including some rare early examples and a number of vast Victorian carriage umbrellas – the forerunner of the golfing umbrella – which are on show at Snowhill Manor in Gloucestershire.

Above: umbrellas in the Priest's House at Snowhill Manor



Rainmakers' Autumn Date Sheet

October - December 2001

Club Nights

Saturday 13th October - Rainmakers' 25th Anniversary Dance

Ickleford Village Hall, 7.30pm - 11.00pm

Please wear costume if you have one and bring a plate of food for the buffet. During the interval fruit punch will be provided courtesy of the club. Bring other personal drink if you wish.

Friday 19th October - Bring a Friend / New Members' Evening

Introduce someone to International Folk Dancing. An evening with a bias towards dances which are easy learn or easy to follow. An opportunity for established members to brush up on their technique.

Sunday 28th October - Social at 'Red Gables', Benslow Path, Hitchin

Join Jill and Peter from 12.30pm onwards with your partner for a chance to relax and socialise without wondering what the next dance will be!! See videos of past gatherings etc. Please bring a plate of food towards the buffet lunch.

Friday 23rd November - Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting

Starts at 8.00pm. Who would you like to see on the new committee? The nomination sheet is out NOW. Remember to ask them first. If you have any comments or suggestions (even complaints!) this is your opportunity to voice them.

Friday ^{14th}~~21st~~ December - End of Term Christmas Party *Change of date.*

Dancing till 11.00pm. Please wear costume if you have one and bring a contribution of drink or a plate of food for the buffet.

Friday 28th December

There will be a club meeting if economically viable. A decision will be made after the subject has been discussed at the AGM. *No Meeting.*

Irish Workshops

(Radwell Village Hall, 8.00 - 10.00pm)

Wednesdays 17th October and 21st November

These workshops are dedicated to Irish "social" dancing (normally in square sets) and are intended to promote the enjoyment of the dance rather than the attainment of absolute perfection.

Following John Turner's move to America, Diana Jewett has been booked to teach at these two dates. For more information please talk to Jill.

SIFD Dances

(Cecil Sharp House, 7.00 - 10.00pm)

7th October	Anne Leach
4th November	Jill Bransby and Dalila Heath If you don't normally go to the SIFD Sunday Dances, please make an exception and support this one!
2nd December	Phil & Brenda Steventon with Merton Park

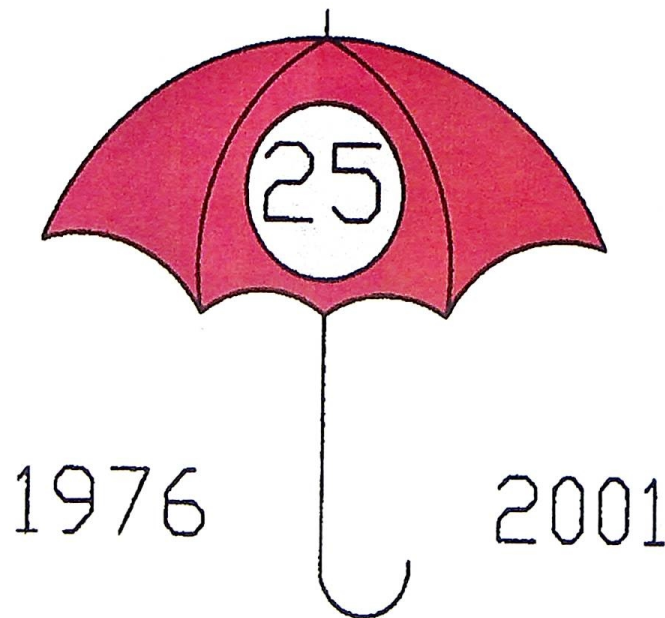
SIFD Day Courses

13th October	Japanese with Marina Wolstenholme
17th November	Romanian with Nick Green and Liz Mellish

For further details see SIFD News, available to view on club nights, or call Helen Ezra on 020 8648 4118.

Rainmakers' 25th Anniversary Dance.
Saturday, October 13th 2001.

**RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL
FOLK DANCE GROUP**



Saturday 13th October 2001

7.30 pm to 11.00 pm

Ickleford Village Hall

Caller – Jill Bransby

Music by Cloudburst

Displays by Rainmakers Irish Group and Dalila Heath

000047

PROGRAMME

				Nikolos	Greece	
1976/77	Mayim Mayim Girls' dance from Kalosca Neapolitan Tarantella	Israel Hungary Italy		1988/89	En Allant aux Châtaignes Musica Nisheret	Switzerland Israel
1977/78	Serbian Suite	Serbia		1990/91	Maori stick dance	New Zealand
1978/79	Walczyk	Poland		1991/92	Rav Brachot Joc de Leagane	Israel Romania
1979/80	La Bourrée Pastourelle Russian Lyrical	French Russia		1992/93	Branle à Six de la Châtre Mari Mariko	France Bulgaria
1980/81	Stepping Out Horlepiep	USA Holland		1994/95	Bailecito	Argentina
1981/82	Pariser Polka Doudleška Polka	Norway Czech	×	1995/96	Tiedliepats	Holland
1982/83	Ränningen Galop Kontra	Sweden Denmark	×	1996/97	Reiach Duda'im	Israel
1983/84	Sîrba Pravo Trakijsko Horo	Romania Bulgaria	×	1997/98	Dvazhdi Trizhdi	Bulgaria
1984/85	Jota Antiqua Tarantella Rivilisi	Majorca Italy	×	1998/99	Mellionen Ten Chi Aymar B'har Hamor	Wales China Israel
1985/86	Maiezyt	Switzerland	×	1999/2000	Polka Dot Drjanovska Râćenica	USA Bulgaria
1986/87	Chotis de la Frontera Har'oa Haketana	Mexico Israel		2000/01	Födelsgagvals Reinadio	Sweden Portugal
1987/88	Santis Masoulke	Switzerland		1991/92	Mombar	Armenia

There will be an interval, during which refreshments will be served.

x dances omitted because time ran out.

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group was founded, by Jill Bransby, Roy and Rene Bowtell and Gordon and Delphine Stacey in Stevenage in 1976 to learn and enjoy dances from all over the world.

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

When Jill stood down as chairman the club conferred the title of President and Life Member on her in recognition of all her hard work in teaching the dances. To this day she is still the main teacher of dances in the club.

During the 1980's Rainmakers moved to Letchworth where the group has continued to flourish. We meet at Letchworth Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth every Friday (other than August) at 8.00pm and are always pleased to welcome new members.

Contacts

President and dance leader	Jill Bransby	01462-457791
Chairman	Graham Styles	01462-677916
Secretary	Sheila Leavy	01462-636038
Treasurer	Richard Thom	01438-316651

Rainmakers' 25th Anniversary Dance.
Saturday, October 13th 2001.

When Till Bransky, Roy and Rene Bowtell and Gordon and Dalphine Stacey decided to form an International Folk Dancing Group in Stevenage in 1976 I am sure that they did not contemplate that the club would still be going twenty-five years later. Till put notices in the local newspapers and circulated other folk dancing clubs in the area to say that the first meeting would be held in the Catholic Church Hall, Albert Street, Stevenage on Friday, September 10th 1976 at 8.00 p.m.

These early days were remembered last Saturday, October 13th, when the club, now called The Rainmakers, met at Ickleford Village Hall for a dance to celebrate its Silver Anniversary.

I believe there were eight people present on that first occasion, including the founders. There were not many more the next week when Henry and I went along as very raw recruits to folk dancing. We were not allowed to sit and watch but soon found we were enjoying ourselves very much.

Till had folk dancing friends in Cambridge, including her former teacher, Kathie Tribe, who quite often came to partner and help us. I well remember our first Christmas Party when they came

wearing costumes - a new idea for us!

Numbers attending on a Friday night gradually increased so we held an A.G.M. in November 1976 with Jill as Chairman, and a committee was formed. Enough money to keep us going was of great concern. The S.I.F.D. had given us a loan which we quite soon managed to repay and have a bit left over for our funds, by holding Tumble Sales. We also acquired a proper name for the club - The Rainmakers as we broke the famous drought of 1976 by dancing "Mayim Mayim" (Water Water) We left the hall in a deluge after the second meeting. Various S.I.F.D. teachers came from London, free, to teach and encourage us.

When Jill planned the programme for our 25th Anniversary Dance she remembered these teachers (such as Margery Latham, Betty Harvey, Lillian Galatis, Kelsey Blundell, Janet Woolbar and Frank Flanagan and many more more recently) by choosing two or three dances that they taught us for each year.

We were very pleased to see Roy Bowtell, Janet Woolbar and Frank Flanagan at the dance on Saturday. Quite a few former club members and past teachers were contacted.

Terry Reid and his wife Patricia came up from Devon. Gordon and Dalphine Stacey wrote a nice letter from Suffolk regretting that they could not attend but remembering many happy times including performances at the Hitchin Gathering. There was also a message of good wishes to us all from Barbara Watkins.

Fifty-four people were at the dance including most of the present members plus Cloudburst Band. Visitors from several S.I.F.D. clubs were very welcome including a party of seven from Woodvale in Kent and some Irish dancers.

The evening went with a swing and by 8.30 we were glad to sit down and watch a display by the Irish Set Dance Group.

They danced: -

1. Corofin Fair. 3rd figure. (Reel Step)
2. Melleray Lancers. 5th figure. (Polka Step)

As Graham explained, this is a group of people, some Rainmakers and others not, who meet at Radwell to enjoy Irish Set Dancing. The group originated from a Rainmaker Day Course taken by Diana Jewett.

It was interesting and enjoyable to see what this offshoot of Rainmakers gets up to once a month.

Soon after this we broke for refreshments. During the interval, after much chatting and eating, Jill

ceremonially cut the birthday cake.

She made a short speech, remembering years past and thanking many people who helped to keep the club going.

Isabel then recited a splendid poem that she had written about 'The Rain makers'.

Both Jill and Isabel were warmly applauded. Then we returned to dancing.

The next break came for a display of Armenian dancing by Dalilah Heath (also one of our Day Course teachers.) She wore an elegant Armenian costume and danced two dances, one sad and one joyful, most gracefully. We did appreciate this.

Time was flying by swiftly and Jill began to see that she would have to cut a few dances from the programme. However, one that could not possibly be omitted was "Mari Mariko" because Wendy, from the band and also the Rainmaker Singing Group, sang it while we danced. Poor Wendy will not forget October 13th 2001 because during the first half of the dance her violin broke and she had to phone someone in Luton to bring her another*. Then, as she was about to sing, her microphone came apart. However, all was well in the end.

Just before the dance ended, Graham

our Chairman, took the microphone to thank Cloudburst for playing so well for us, the dancers who gave displays, all those who worked so hard on preparations especially Maria and Adrian for refreshments and above all he thanked Jill for keeping the club going and for tonight's celebratory dance.

The evening concluded by most people joining in "Mombkar", a candle dance, traditional in Armenia for ending a party. The circle of lighted candles was an effective way to end a special evening.

* Wendy's father Keith, who lives in Durslade bought an old fiddle along.



Cloudburst Band and the special banner made by Graham and Ces.





Stepping Out!



Tucking In!



Isabel recites her
poem
"In nineteen hundred
and seventy six ---"

Onlookers - Maria,
Cecilia and Anne Milner
(Irish Step Dancer.)

Blowing out
the candles,
watched by
Frank Flanagan.



In nineteen hundred and seventy six
The British weather got up to its tricks;
Day after day the sun shone on —
Everyone wondered where the rain had gone.

Then Jill decided to take a chance
And start a club for folk-type dance,
And one of the dances they learned at first
Was 'Mayim, mayim' ('please quench our thirst').

That night the drought was broken at last,
The welcome raindrops fell down fast,
So when the club was wanting a name
'The Rainmakers' it soon became.

And now the year is two thousand and one,
Twenty-five years have come and gone.
We're older, and stiffer, but thanks to Jill
We happily go on dancing still.

So here's to Jill, and here's to us,
Is it any wonder we're making a fuss?
The Rainmakers are 25 years old —
Another 25 and we go for gold!!

I. M. L.

An anniversary poem, composed and
recited by Isabel during the interval
of the dance.
Well done Isabel!

Enfield

Foto: Radel/Huber
Herbst im Allgau

Sunday.

Dear Till, I thank you
& Reinhard, for a very
pleasant evening on Jan 25th.

Only those who came will
really know, so I'm glad that
Doro, Greta did and Daniela.

All much appreciated.

Best wishes, Sincerely

Roy

Card from Roy Clark (S.I.F.D.) received
by Till after the dance.



Till cuts the
25th Anniversary
cake -
(made by Maria.)

Peter and Till
demonstrate
the Maori Stick
Dance.

This was followed
by much laughter
as visitors, who
had not met it
before, joined in.





Dalilah Heath
performed two
Armenian dances
- one sad
- one happy.





Dahlah receives
a "thank you"
gift near the
end of the dance.





Mombas concludes the evening.

Photographs given by Jill, Phil and Terry.



Birthday Party

Card from Janet Purdy. It was displayed on the piano at the dance.

25 years

CONGRATULATIONS

Rainmakers

Thank you for the
fun and friendship down the
years and of course
wonderful dancing. Long
may it continue.

Sorry I can't be with you
on this special occasion -
see you soon!

Best wishes

Janet



Present:- Graham, Peter & Pam Long, Janet, Sue, Adrian, Alan, Jill
Kotka, Martin, Roy, Jane, Diane, Dick, Isabel.



Plus:- Julie, Daksha

Sunday, October 28th 2001.
Rainmakers "At Home".

Peter and Jill have always made the Rainmakers feel very much at home when they have invited them to their home in Hitchin on various occasions.

Today was no exception when they generously invited the club to be "At Home" with them from 12.30 onwards. About twenty people went along bearing contributions to the buffet lunch. Although Jill was unwell she came downstairs to socialise and join us watching videos of Rainmakers performing displays at the Hitchin Gathering over twenty-five years. There was some amusement at seeing ourselves looking younger and fitter and noticing the triumphs and slight errors here and there.

The kindness and hospitality of Jill and Peter is much appreciated.



And:— Betty (one hand), Phil, Peter Bransky (taking photographs.)

Sunday Dance at Cecil Sharp House, November 4, 2001.

M.C. Jill Bransby. Interval: Dalila Heath

Hine Ma Tov
Rav Brachot

La Bastringue
Little Man in a Fix

Hora de la Risipiti
Sirba din Cimpoi

Halfe Hannekin
My Lord Byron's Maggot

Trakijaska Racenica (Yves Moreau version) (TAPE)

La Bourree Croissee
Deux, Deux, Deux

Shir Ha'Chatuna
Harimon

Jota Tapatia
El Corrido (TAPE)

Devushky Padruzhenky
Lludo Mlado

Trommelvals
Salty Dog Rag (TAPE)

Dans su Sucitoare (TAPE)
Raas (TAPE)

Tiedeliepats (TAPE)
Ys Wals

Lugovonka (TAPE)

Zagrodnik
Bourree de la Chapelotte

Polka Dot
Bailecito (TAPE)

Tancuj
Girls' Dance from Kalocsa

Chassene

~~Zemer Atik~~

Mazki Buenek (TAPE)

~~Branle Maitre de la Maison~~

Ranningen

~~Pariser Polka~~

~~Ba Pardess~~

~~Neapolitan Tarantella~~

~~Maiezyt~~

Mombar (TAPE)

(Revised 31.10.01)

6 dances were omitted because time ran out.



Jill was M.C. for the S.I.F.D. Dance in November. About ten Rainmakers were also present. Alan Trangmar led two Bulgarian dances.



A large crowd joins in.

Betty,

My sister-in-law, Jean, sent me these 'Commandments' which were printed in the back of her Square Dance 'Bible'. I thought you might like them for the Scrap Book.

Jill

TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR SQUARE DANCERS

1. **THOU SHALT** honor thy caller and harken to his voice -- for thy success depends greatly upon his words.
2. **THOU SHALT** Square Dance only for the fun which thee will find in it.
3. **THOU SHALT** exchange greetings and be friendly to all in thy group lest thee be labeled a snob and unworthy of thy title -- SQUARE DANCER.
4. **THOU SHALT** bathe diligently before the dance so that the sweet aroma of soap, shaving lotion and deodorant may assail the nostrils of thy associates.
5. **THOU SHALT** strive to dance in different squares thereby giving to all the benefit of thy fine personality and great experience.
6. **THOU SHALT NOT** partake of strong drink before nor during the dance, and shall take care that the words from thy mouth are not scented with garlic or beer.
7. **THOU SHALT NOT** let the stranger in thy midst sit on the sidelines and cool his heels nor fail to speak to him.
8. **THOU SHALT NOT** be a snob considering thyself too good to dance with any and all, sitting out mixers or leaving a square once it has been established..
9. **THOU SHALT NOT KILL** the spirit of Square Dancing by bickering and fault finding.
10. **THOU SHALT NOT** forget that thou were once a beginner.

Words of wisdom from Jill via her sister-in-law, that would apply at any folk dance.

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

AGM Friday 23th November 2001

Agenda

- 1) Welcome & Opening Comments
- 2) Apologies for absence
- 3) Minutes of 2000 AGM
- 4) Matters Arising
- 5) Secretary's Report
- 6) Treasurer's Report
- 7) Annual Subs & Friday Charges
- 8) Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 9) Chairman's Comments
- 10) Election of new Committee
- 11) Any Other Business

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

Minutes of Annual General Meeting held at St Michael's Church Hall, Letchworth.
Friday 24th November 2000

The meeting opened at 08.20pm 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 :
Jill Bransby
Peter Bransby
Moya Gray
Isabel Lamont

Number of members Present 24

Graham advised the meeting that an attendance of 24 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 Extraordinary General Meeting of Friday 25th February 2000

Graham requested members to raise points of inaccuracy in the minutes of the year 2000 EGM.

Richard noted that in para 9, Appointment of Treasurer. Line 2. The sentence beginning "Richard Thom agreed to..." Should read "Richard Thom reluctantly agreed to..."

Richard also noted the same sentence should include the words :-

"Richard stated that he may not be able to attend any committee meetings"

With those corrections Roger proposed the minutes be accepted as a true and accurate record of the EGM. The motion was seconded by Louise and carried with no objections or abstentions.

4 Matters arising

Although not strictly "matters arising" Graham did confirm that the accounts for years 1997/98 and 1998/99 had been presented to the EGM and accepted as true & accurate.

He also confirmed that Bill Thorn had been nominated and accepted as the club's Independent Examiner for the year 2000.

5 Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Friday 27th November 1999

Graham requested members to raise points of inaccuracy in the minutes of the previous years AGM.

Richard noted that in Para 6.1, Treasurer's Report, Line 7, "that because Richard's concerns...." Should read "that because of Richard's concerns...."

Minutes of Annual General Meeting of Friday 27th November 1999 (Continued)

Also, in the last sentence of the same paragraph, “when Barry and Richard had....”
Should read “when Barry, Richard and the new Treasurer had”

Adrian noted in Para 8, Chairman’s Comments, Line 3 the sentence beginning “This AGM was to be exception....” Should read “This AGM was to be no exception....”

Sheila noted in para 9, Election of Officers, under nomination for Secretary “Levy” should be spelt “Leavy”.

With these corrections Graham offered the minutes for acceptance as a true and accurate record of the clubs 1999 AGM. Proposed by Adrian seconded by Betty. Carried with no objections or abstentions. Graham signed the minutes.

6 Matters Arising

Using prepared notes Graham addressed matters arising from the 1999AGM :-

6.1 Ref AGM Minutes Para 4.1 Capital Outlay on a Mini-Disc.

A decision on this subject had been deferred pending feedback on Stapler’s experience with their system. However Staplers are still in the process of transferring their library of music from vinyl records to Mini Disc. Consequently committee had been unable to undertake any informed discussion on the viability of this medium within Rainmakers based on Stapler’s experience.

Quite by coincidence committee was currently in contact with Coomber in an effort to ascertain the financial viability of having the club’s present unit overhauled.

6.2 Ref AGM minutes Para 4.2 Sale of club costume.

Although your committee still regarded this subject as one worthy of attention, its relative low priority together with a lack of human resources had prevented committee from progressing it to a conclusion.

6.3 Ref AGM Minutes Para 4.5 Short audio tapes.

Graham had been pleased to report that very recently the action to record 60 new tunes on 30 new cassettes had been completed. It only remained to “proof listen” them and generate the corresponding dance notation.

6.4 Ref AGM Minutes Para 6.1 Acceptance of Accounts.

As proposed, when acceptable sets of accounts for the years 1997/98 & 1998/99 had been generated an EGM had been called.

Both sets of accounts had been presented and accepted as true and accurate.

6.5 Ref AGM Minutes Para 7 Independent Examiner.

At the same EGM Bill Thorn was presented as a candidate for the role of Independent Examiner. He was proposed, seconded and elected unanimously.

6.6 Ref AGM Minutes Para 8.4 Letchworth Arts & Leisure Group.

On behalf of your committee Sheila had investigated the possible benefits to be had from Rainmakers involvement with the Letchworth Arts & Leisure Group. An initial requirement for membership existed whereby each member of Rainmakers would be required to join the group (at an annual cost of £6). The group also had a policy of mutual discount entry to events for members of other organizations within the group. Following discussions committee felt the disadvantages of membership outweighed the benefits, and took no further action.

6.7 Ref AGM Minutes Para 8.6 Anniversary dance 2000.
As proposed the club's 2000 anniversary dance had been organized as a "low key" affair and held on Friday 13th October in St Michael's Hall. However colourful costume, an excellent buffet and a singing cabaret from Katka, together with music from Jacobs ladder & Jill as MC, combined to produce a very enjoyable evening which had attracted several SIFD visitors.

6.8 Ref AGM Minutes Para 10.1 Anniversary T.Shirt.
Following the AGM Isabel had accepted the task of masterminding the production of a 25th Anniversary T.Shirt. Following a request for ideas from members a silver design on a blue shirt had been selected as the most suitable combination. Isabel was now in the final stages of gathering the names of members wishing to invest in a shirt. The final job will be given to the same printers who produce T.Shirts for the SIFD.

6.9 Ref AGM Minutes Para 10.2 Anniversary dance 2001.
Graham reported that committee was already working on arrangements for Rainmakers Silver Jubilee Dance and that to date Saturday 13th October has been selected as the date and Ickleford village has been booked. Cloudburst had also been booked to provide live music and Jill has accepted an invitation to MC the evening. Betty had agreed to contact as many past members as possible with an invitation to attend. Committee was also addressing the question of a cabaret.

Graham asked if there were any questions or points members felt he had overlooked. There were none.

7 Secretary's Report

Sheila presented a report covering club activities for the period 1st September 1999 to 31st August 2000.

A full transcript of Sheila's report is attached as Appendix A.

Graham thanked Sheila for her comprehensive report.

8 Treasurer's Report

Before presenting the accounts Richard wished to point out the following errors in the notes accompanying them :-

Para 2 the sentence beginning "It may well I allocated the figurers last year incorrectly." Should read "It may well be I allocated the figures last year incorrectly."

Also under Para 5 "37 members" should read "37 members plus Jill as a life member"

Adrian asked for clarification of Para 6. Richard replied that despite repeated requests no invoices or bills for "stationary etc" had been presented.

There being no other questions Graham offered the accounts for acceptance.

Barry proposed their acceptance, seconded by Adrian. There were no objections or Abstentions.

A copy of the accounts and Richard's notes are attached as Appendix B

9 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Richard informed the meeting that Bill Thorn was willing to accept the position of independent examiner and proposed his appointment, seconded by Adrian. There were no objections or abstentions. Richard noted that if unforeseen circumstances took Bill out of the area, he had a "fall back" plan he could bring into action.

10 Annual Subs and Weekly Charges

Graham informed the meeting that when discussed in committee Richard as Treasurer had expressed the opinion that with the current level of Friday attendance and the club's general level of expenditure, there was no need for committee to propose an increase in the level of Annual Subs or Weekly Charges. Graham asked if there were any proposals from the floor to increase weekly or annual charges. There were none.

11 Chairman's Comments

11.1 Graham started his comments by taking the opportunity to thank those members who have made a specific contribution to the club's activities or well-being during the previous 12 months. He then went on to thank :-

Sheila who had taken on the mantle of publicity officer and club secretary.

Katka who had taken responsibility for the Friday MC rota and had also produced a further 30 short audio tapes. Also for her singing cabaret spots.

Richard & Peter for their diligent husbandry of the clubs' funds and their professional approach to the clubs' accounts.

Maria as Wardrobe Mistress & general catering co-ordinator.

Jill not only as Dance mistress and choreographer but also with Peter for organising the monthly Irish Set Dance Workshops which Rainmakers support.

Betty for maintaining the scrapbooks. At this point (on Betty's behalf) Graham took the opportunity to thank everyone who had supplied her with material for the books.

Martin for ensuring an adequate supply of squash for the interval drinks.

Claire for bringing the SIFD shop to many Friday evenings.

Isabel for her work in the production of an Anniversary T.Shirt.

All those members who had acted as MC on Friday evenings & Garden evenings.

Graham concluded his thanks by recognizing those members who had supported the club by performing random, non-specific tasks, during the preceding year.

11.2 Personal Aims

Graham stated that Committee has met seven times since the last AGM and that as it's Chairman it had been his overriding intention, through committee, to maintain the level and variety of Rainmakers activities at a level to which the club had become accustomed. In most areas he had been satisfied with the programme of events that had been arranged but that it had been a matter of personal disappointment that since the last AGM, Rainmakers had, for one reason or another, undertaken no display activities. He therefore recommend that the new committee address this issue in accordance with the wishes of the club. He concluded this item by inviting members to express their views on display activities at the end of the meeting, under Any Other Business.

11.3 Workshops

In view of their success Graham recommend that committee continues to arrange occasional special Friday evening workshops with invited teachers during the next year and also to provide at least one full Saturday workshop, with a recommendation that all of them be advertised in the SIFD news.

11.4 Publicity

Under the heading of publicity Graham stated that the absence of any “Bring a Friend Evenings” during the previous 12 months was not intentional, but rather the result of unforeseen circumstances. He recommend that the committee address this matter as soon as practically possible.

Graham concluded his comments by thanking members for their attention.

At this point Richard proposed a vote of thanks to Graham for this work as Chairman over the past 12 months. Graham thanked the meeting.

12 Letchworth Centenary Celebrations 2003

For the benefit of non Letchworth residents Graham explained that the year 2003 was the town’s Centenary and that the Heritage foundation was eager that all organisations in the town had an opportunity to support the celebration by arranging events in conjunction with the Heritage Foundation that reflected their field of activity.

Graham explained that on 25th May he & Sheila had attended an open forum in the Spirella building arranged to gauge the level of interest in the idea. The evening had been very well attended and had illustrated the wide variety of active clubs, groups and associations in the town. During the evening one of the ideas raised was a “Day of Dance”. This idea was later discussed in Rainmakers committee and had been regarded as one worth promoting at the AGM.

Graham opened the subject for discussion, making it clear that in view of the date, he was looking for a commitment from “The Club”, not individuals.

In response to a query from Adrian, Graham stated that commitment from the Heritage Foundation to fund or assist with publicity had not been addressed at the meeting although it was his personal view that a general budget would be available. Betty noted that in 2003 some current members may not be physically able to dance in a display.

The situation regarding invitations to “Twin Towns” was also raised, Graham explained that he was unable to confirm whether or not invitations to join the celebrations would be extended to them. Following further general discussion Graham presented the principle to the floor, that “Rainmakers International Folk Dance Club wished to be involved in the 2003 Letchworth Centenary Celebrations”. A proposal was raised by Julie and seconded by Richard, there were no objections or abstentions. Following a request for volunteers to act as representatives for the Club at subsequent external meetings and report back on developments, Katka and Adrian offered to fill that role. Graham accepted their offer and thanked them both.

13 Election of Officers

Graham introduced this item by highlighting the importance of having a representative committee, which included a Chairman, Treasurer & Secretary.

The discussions which ensued prompted a number of volunteers from the floor which resulted in the following list of nominations :-

Office	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
Chairman	Graham Styles	Belinda Gee	Diana Hensman
Secretary	Sheila Leavy	Janet Purdy	Daksha Trivedi
Treasurer	Richard Thom	Adrian Barter	Roger Lowes
Members	Roger Lowes	Adrian Barter	Janet Purdy
	Katka Kessler	Daksha Trivedi	Belinda Gee
	Adrian Barter	Patti Barfoot	Richard Thom
	Diana Hensman	Barry O’Sullivan	Sheila Leavy

Election of Officers (Continued)

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

Graham offered the nominees, as read, for election "on block".

Proposed by Claire, seconded by Helen, there were no objections and no abstentions.

Richard wished to minute the fact that the bank account signatories were unchanged.

14 Any Other Business

14.1 Christmas Meetings

Graham asked if members wished to have a club meeting on Friday 29th December. A show of hands indicated that it would be a viable proposition. Graham confirmed the club would open on that evening and agreed to publicise it.

14.2 Display Activities

As mentioned earlier in the meeting Graham offered members an opportunity to voice their feelings regarding display activities. After a period of general discussion Graham asked if there were any members who did not want Rainmakers to pursue any display requests or opportunities. There were none. Graham closed the subject, stating that "by default" he would take that as a mandate to recommend committee continue to take a positive yet considered approach to display activities.

14.3 Newsletter

Mark asked if the Club newsletter could be revived, suggesting a single sheet with dates for "special" Friday evenings and workshops as a start. Publication being on a quarterly basis. Graham confirmed that he would present the suggestion for discussion in committee.

14.4 Donation to Set & Turn Single.

Graham opened the subject, stating that the original idea had been mooted by another club member. During the resulting discussion the "non profit making" status of Set & Turn Single (S&TS) was established. Adrian asked Richard, as Treasurer, if a figure of £20 was acceptable. Richard replied that he would not raise any objection to that sum. Adrian proposed a donation of £20 be made to S&TS magazine, seconded by Richard. Carried with no objections or abstentions.

There being no other business Graham thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.44pm.

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT 31 for year ending August 2001

INCOME

<u>1999/2000</u>			<u>2000/2001</u>
<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>			
830.00	Weekly subscriptions (1)	844.00	
-	T-Shirts (2)	200.00	
100.00	Refund Hall deposits	-	
			1044.00

<u>EVENTS</u>			
102.00	Anniversary dance	132.00	
105.50	Day course	66.80	
26.50	Donations (3)	72.00	
63.75	Joint Staplers Dance	60.17	330.97

<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			
111.00	Annual subscriptions (5)	111.00	
4.36	Interest	7.30	
			118.30

			50.00

-----			-----
1343.11			1543.27

EXPENDITURE

<u>1999/2000</u>			<u>2000/2001</u>
<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>			
744.00	Hire of Hall	846.00	
-	Tapes, instructions, videos etc	1.00	
18.41	Squash	30.20	
-	Caller's etc expenses	8.99	
7.22	Slipstop	21.90	
	First Aid kit	19.95	
	Donation Set and Turn a Single	20.00	
-	T-shirts (2)	156.28	
5.00	Miscellaneous	28.53	1132.85

<u>EVENTS</u>			
290.74	Anniversary dance	86.93	
77.32	Day course	51.71	
	Joint Staplers Dance	50.00	
		-----	188.64
<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>			
29.30	SIFD affiliation fee	29.30	
62.69	Insurance	67.87	
1.08	Postage (6)	1.62	
2.50	Phone (6)	2.00	
2.00	Stationery etc. (6)	-	
-	Newsletter	0.84	
1.19	Scrapbook	2.98	104.61

<u>EQUIPMENT</u>			
-	Repair		4.88

-----			-----
1271.45			1430.98
71.66	Excess of income over expenditure		112.29
-----			-----
1343.11			1543.27

1999/2000

2000/2001

1343.11	Income	1543.27
1271.45	Net Expenditure	1430.98
-----		-----
71.66	Excess of income over expenditure	112.29
798.67	Balance brought forward	869.67
-----		-----
869.67	Balance carried forward	981.96
-----		-----
62.18	Cash in hand	165.01
807.49	Bank	816.95
-----		-----
869.67		981.96
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance)

171.69	Balance brought forward	171.69
NIL	Events Profit	142.33
-----		-----
171.69		314.02
NIL	Purchases/Repairs	4.88
-----		-----
171.69	Balance carried forward	309.14
-----		-----
798.01	Balance	981.96
171.69	Equipment Fund	309.14
-----		-----
697.98	Working Capital	672.82
-----		-----

Notes attaching to and forming part of the accounts

1. 45 weeks with an average attendance of 18.75.
2. We made a present to Jill of her T-shirt
3. £22 was received from the Irish workshops and £50 from Pirton Nursing Home.
4. Sale of costumes given to the club from the estate of Moya Gray.
5. 37 members.
6. The chairman and secretary have not claimed for these items.


Independent Examiner's report

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

BILL THORNE

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Dated


September 17th 2001.

Friday, November 23rd. 2001.

Annual General Meeting.

The meeting opened at 8.10 p.m.
19 members were present.

- ① The Minutes of the year 2000 A.G.M. had been distributed.

Graham dealt with matters arising from them.
The main points he dealt with were:-

- 1) Capital outlay is likely soon for new audio equipment. What type of equipment to be purchased is being thoroughly investigated i.e. Cassette player, C.D. player, mini disc. or mini-cassette players or a combination.

Graham strongly recommends that we stay with a cassette player as we have a large quantity of international folk dancing tapes that we use regularly.

- 2) The club has a number of costumes for sale. Some of these were given to the Rainmakers from the estate of Moya Gray.
- 3) The special T shirt produced for our 25th anniversary was satisfactory.
- 4) A Bring a Friend Evening was held. Several new faces appeared, but have not been seen again.
- 5) 30 new short tape cassettes have been produced and are in general use.

6) Adrian is investigating grant availability for new club equipment.

7) Newsletter - a quarterly Diary Dates sheet is being produced.

② Secretary's Report.

Sheila gave a comprehensive report of the club's activities during the past year.

8) The Anniversary Dance took place as planned. Two past members attended in response to our letters - Roy Bowtell & Terry Read. There was a small excess of expenditure over income.

③

Treasurer's Report.

Richard said that we had made a small surplus over our expenditures during the past year. He referred us to the Balance Sheet.

The committee recommends that the annual subscription to the club should remain at £3, due on January 1st.

The weekly subscription should be increased to £1-30 as from January 1st.

The last increase was in January 1997. The sub. has been kept at £1 per week for 5 years.

St. Michael's Hall costs £9 an hour and is likely to go up.

Barely half our members attend every week. (i.e. $18 \frac{3}{4}$ people!)

Bill Thorne will continue to be our Independent Examiner. Thanks to him were

passed from the club.

④ Election of Officers.

Only two names were on the list for nominations - No Chairman and no Secretary. There was much discussion and an impasse reached.

Adrian proposed an adjournment for orange squash and un-recorded discussion. This was agreed.

After a break the following people agreed to form a committee.

Chairman. —

Secretary (temporary, minimalist)

Peter Bransky

Treasurer. Richard Thom.

Committee. Adrian Barter

Roger Howes

Katka Kessler

Graham Styles, the retiring Chairman, thanked the past former Committee for their work and support. He also thanked all the ordinary club members who did various jobs to help the club run well.

He especially thanked Jill Bransky for taking club evenings, teaching us, running dances and numerous other things she did for the Rainmakers.

Graham was warmly thanked too.

Any Other Business.

1) The club was told that Jill is now (at last!) officially recognised as an ~~off~~ S.I. F.D. teacher and Graham congratulated her on our behalf.

this means that

Till pointed out that the Rainmakers are now an Associated member of the S.I.F.D. We shall only be entitled to one free S.I.F.D. teacher to visit us per year but the fees will cost less than for an Affiliated club.

2) Till made a presentation to Graham for his service of 10 years on the committee with 5 of them as Chairman.

In thanking Till he said that it had mostly been an enjoyable experience.

3) An E.G.M. will be held early next term in the hope of finding a Chairman and more committee members.

4) The date of the Christmas Party may have to be changed.

5) The club was asked whether it wants to meet on December 28th. On a show of hands only 8 people were in favour of this, so the club will close on December 21st until January 4th 2002.

The meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

Appendix A

RAINMAKERS' AGM 24TH NOVEMBER 2000

SECRETARY'S REPORT SEPTEMBER 1999-AUGUST 2000

The new term began in St Thomas' Church Hall, in Bedford Road while we awaited the improvements to St Michael's Church Hall. As it turned out it was only the kitchen being renovated! If this bit sounds familiar you heard it last year when I got the dates for my report wrong.

September also saw a display at the St. Andrews Home in Hitchin, where 10 Rainmakers entertained the residents to a mixture of dances, including a 3-sided square for Zagrednik. It sounds impossible, but we had actually forgotten how hot it got in their lounge!

Our 23rd Anniversary Dance was also held in September last year. However a number of Rainmakers were unable to attend and there were only 17 dancers, including 5 visitors present. Although enjoyable for those attending, the evening was a financial loss, prompting thoughts of a lower key 24th Anniversary Dance, perhaps on a Friday night?

By November it was AGM time again. After a short spell of dancing the meeting started at 8.15pm. The usual business of the AGM was conducted, but the Accounts had to wait for an EGM and Peter Bransby stepped into the breach as interim Treasurer.

December 17th saw Rainmakers again in party mood for their Christmas party. Martin Butler, on accordion, added a live touch to the music and an enjoyable time was spent before the Christmas break.

The New Millenium was heralded in with a joint Rainmakers/Staplers Dance at the Methodist Church Hall, in Letchworth. Alan Trögmär stepped in to lead the international dancing after Jill was laid low with the flu.

February saw the EGM to present the accounts for the Club. The meeting also heard from Graham that he would not be standing for Chairman at the next AGM, so the Club needed to think whom they would like to nominate instead!

Maggie O'Reagan came to teach at our Day Course on April 1st, with a selection of dances from Eastern Europe. The dances were both interesting and enjoyable and a good time was had by all.

Christian Aid held an International Dance on July 1st, and Rainmakers, ably led by Graham were there to help them through the dances. There was also the, now rare, chance to demonstrate some dance. Adrian and Graham gave a spirited performance of the once popular Ox Dans. Feed back from Isabel said "It was a fun evening."

While some of us were at the above Dance, others from the Club went to the Milton Keynes International Festival to watch the performances there and some also went to the Llangollen International Eisteddfod a few days later. Both provide opportunities to watch national teams and to sometimes recognise dances. The Dutch at Milton Keynes performed several familiar to Rainmakers.

By July 21st the end of term party had come around again. Graham took the opportunity to take some Club photographs, with the view to sending one to the SIFD for inclusion in their Millenium Book. Everyone looked splendid. There was also live music to add to the enjoyment of the evening.

Over the summer break there were 4 Garden Evenings where Rainmakers were able to dance, chat and eat, and even dodge the showers! As usual the gardens provided the usual quota of interesting features! !

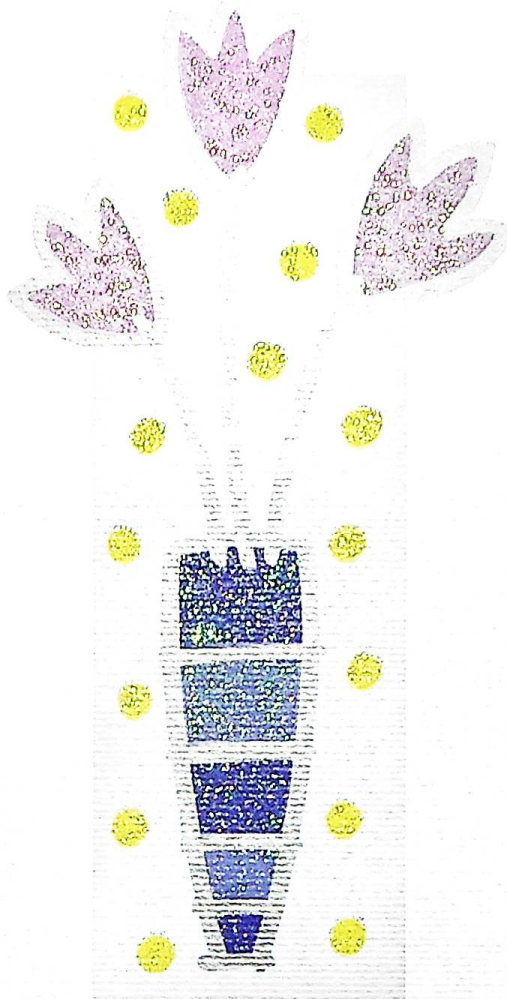
As I said last year, the Club now does very little display dancing. Nevertheless we keep dancing regularly, with workshops and visiting teachers, and trips to SIFD dances and courses by some members. We continue to learn new dances, but attempts to bring in new/younger members have not had a lot of success. Bring a Friend evenings may not introduce many friends, but are a chance to dance some simpler golden oldies! So carry on enjoying dancing.

I would like to add a special thanks to Betty, without whose scrapbooks I would not be able to compile such a comprehensive report.

Christmas Party, December 14th, 2001.

Hora Hadera
Branle Maitre de la Maison
Little Man in a Fix
Harimon
Polka Dot
Reiach Dudaim
Mellem Kagel...
Raas
Karapyet/Korobushka
Lludo Mlado
Jove Male Mome
Merioneth/Mellionen
Harva Haketana
Pravo ^{walczyk} Trakijsko Hora
Kryzok
Tiedliepats
Agir Halay
Gort Met Stroop
Joc de Leagane
Kreuz Koenig
Hachinanit
Galop Kontra
Ten Chi
Marushka
Rav Brachot
Erev Ba

ThankYou!



"Thankyou" card from Jill.

To The Rainmakers,

Thank you very much
for the lovely

Christmas presents -

The Porisetta is

still looking good,
the candle smell lovely
in its posh Wedgewood pot,
the Irish songs are waiting
to be sung

Happy New Year
love Jill

Friday, December 14th. 2001. 8.00-11.00 p.m.
Christmas Party.

Our Christmas Party was going to be held on December 21st but when it was discovered that Jill (most importantly) and several other members could not be there that night, the date was changed at short notice.

This proved to be an excellent idea as there was a large turnout of members.

Live music for dancing was provided by two members of Cloudburst, Martin on accordion and Hazel on violin plus one of our dancing members, Louise, playing her violin. They did really well and the sound gave added zest to the evening.

Nearly everyone wore an international costume. The dances had been requested a week or two beforehand so that the band had plenty of notice. We were in party mood and joined in with a will.

During the interval, when even the refreshments seemed extra special, Diana presented Jill with a Christmas present on our behalf. As it is our 25th Anniversary year Diana had chosen several items to do with silver, which was most appropriate.

At the end of the party we collected our Christmas cards and wished each other "Happy Christmas" as we knew we would not see quite a few people before January 5th 2002.

Friday, December 21st. 2001.

Fourteen of us met at St. Michael's Hall as usual. Roger and Claire were M.C.'s and had compiled an interesting programme of dances. Some included were ones we learnt twenty years ago.

To help make the evening more special, Graham and Adrian prepared hot, spicy apple juice and hot mince pies for us.

After this Adrian produced carol sheets and we sang five well known carols before the dancing re-commenced till ten o'clock or a bit after.

There will be no combined Staplers and Rainmakers party on New Years Day, 2002 so we shall next meet on January 5th 2002.

Extraordinary General Meeting.

Friday, 25th January 2002.

This was a very brief meeting held during the interval of an ordinary club night. The proposed constitutional changes (see opposite) were carried unopposed. Curle Lee joined the committee.

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group

Notice is hereby given that an Extraordinary General Meeting (EGM) for Rainmakers will be held on Friday the 25th of January 2002, in Saint Michael's Hall, Letchworth at 9pm (during the interval of the normal meeting).

The Agenda is as follows :-

1) Constitutional change

There is one change to the constitution being proposed :-

Present

6 c Withdrawals from any club account shall require two signatories save for a transfer between accounts, which may be on the authority of one signatory.

6 d Account signatories shall be officers of the club.

Proposed

6 c Withdrawals from any club account shall require two signatories save for a transfer between accounts, which may be on the authority of one signatory.

6 d Account signatories shall be officers of the club, *together with no more than one Committee member appointed for the purpose at a meeting of the Committee.*

Note that 6c is not being changed, and is included for context.

The club currently has only 2 officers, and it would be sensible to have 3 cheque signatories. The suggested new wording of 6d would mean that at least one officer would have to sign each cheque.

2) Invitation to members of the club to fill vacancies in the committee

Could anyone wishing to stand for committee membership, in any capacity, please contact one of the current committee.

Betty

8/2/02 →

I thought Louise's programme was worth preserving for posterity! Unfortunately there were only a few of us there to enjoy it. For most of the evening there were 9 of us (Graham, Roger, & 7 females), then just before 9.30 in walked Barry & Helen. Being very adaptable, we danced Cort met stroop with 4 couples, and in Bourrée de la Chancelotte Barry danced with 4 women, 2 on each side! We did change two dances - Teen instead of Tarantella Montevigene, & Dorset 4-hand reel (2 sets of 4 & a set of 3) instead of Parson's Farewell. And the timing was perfect - we finished Zemer Atik on the stroke of 10 pm.

Hope you enjoyed the concert

Isabel

Friday, 8th February 2002

An A - Z of Dance

- A Ahavat Hadassa
B Ba Pardess
C Chassene
D Dvadzi Trizdi
E Eench Imanay
F Fadinho Tres Tempos
G Gort Met Stroop
H Hachinanit
I Ivanitsa
J Joc in Patru
K Kulsko
L Ludo Mlado
M Menoussis
N Neapolitan Tarantella
O l'Ojerta
P Pravo Trakijsko Choro
Q Quebec (cheat) – La Bastringue
R Reiach DuDa'Im
S Salty Dog Rag
T Tarantella Montevergine — Teen.
U UK (cheat) – Parson's Farewell — Dorset Four Hand Reel.
V Vrapceto
W Walenki
X is for ♥ kissing – Bourree de la Chapelotte
Y Yswals
Z Zemer Atik

Thank you for all the
messages of Sympathy received
after the death of my Mother.

It was a comfort to read your
kind thoughts

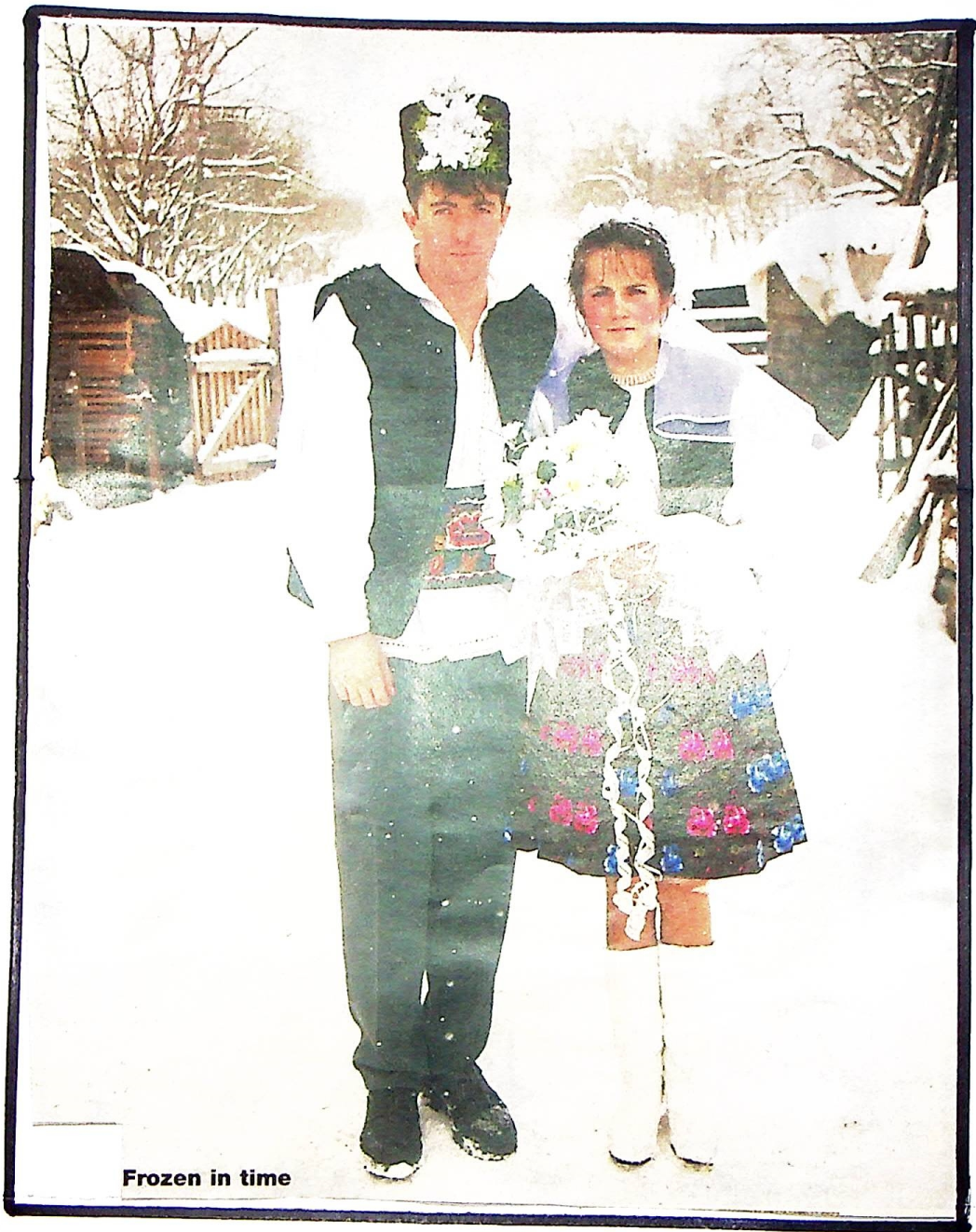
Yr
Jill

newly pregnant Styler around on the Police's

Synchro
Styler
time... v
documen
came ba
After gi
(Mickey
pregnan
the same
from Al
Sting wa
made St
I'm r
was on
him, ha
The p
some
has s
can b

wasn't c
me bein
the wild
ctors a
r ag
nts to
point ye
I'm a se
there lo
worst be
one's ca
I don
of "poo
want to
that, bo
that poi
just stop
somethi
I had pr
money.
career?"

The c
working
docume
owe
nt:
ing
making
docume
breakin
filmed g
Styler k
having
Mounta
because
docume
I adr
constan
never h
either: s
all sorts
of the p
The
they can
this anc
can act
Anot
Guy Ri
who ini
with Lo
Styler k
executi
campai



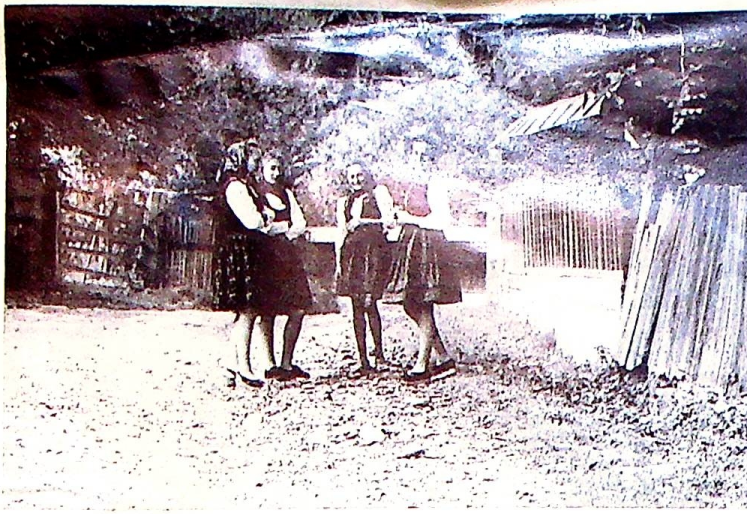
Frozen in time

Romania.

An article from the Daily Telegraph
about life in 21st Century Romania.

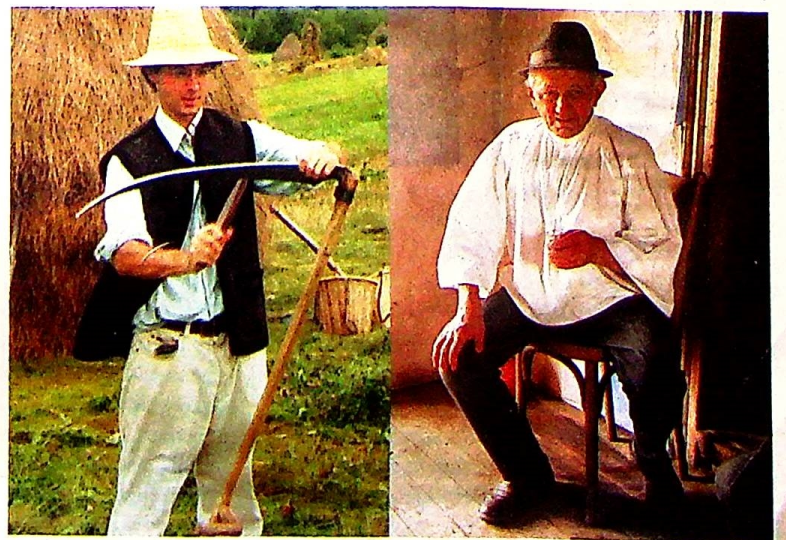
They call it Frozen in Time.

I found it fascinating reading.



LIFE IN THE SLOW LANE

These scenes are reminiscent of a time long past but, remarkably, they depict 21st-century life in an isolated corner of eastern Europe. William Blacker lived for four years in a village in the Romanian countryside, documenting in words and photographs a fragile and almost forgotten way of life





The winters were long and hard with temperatures often falling to -30C, so to see the first cherry blossom was a relief; you knew spring had well and truly arrived. And when the cherries ripened, bursting their skins in the sun, you knew summer had come. Then in June, while scything the hay meadows, Mihai and I would keep ourselves going on cherries from the trees which also gave us shade as we sat down to rest.

I first came to Mihai's village in January 1990. I expected to find a drab and depressed world of workers crushed by decades of conformity. But in Romania I found something quite different. Two weeks after the execution of Ceausescu and the overthrow of his regime, I crossed over the snow-covered Carpathian mountains from Transylvania and descended into a remote wooded valley in the Maramures region. Entering the village in the freezing fog, I saw a Europe I had thought no longer existed. It was the eastern Europe of Old Peter's Russian tales, a land of wooden cottages on the edges of huge forests inhabited by wolves and bears, of snow and sledges and sheepskin coats, of country people in embroidered shirts, headscarves and skirts.

In 1996, I left the modern world behind and set off again to find this isolated spot. I walked over hills and through forests, and slept in haystacks.

Opposite, from top, the Sunday promenade: after lunch, the village's unmarried young women – sometimes up to 40 of them – walk arm-in-arm along the main track wearing their best clothes, while the young men watch from the sidelines; men in traditional hats for the church's annual saint's day; crushing hemp to remove the husks – the fibres inside are then combed and spun to make sacks and clothes; William Blacker with his scythe; Blacker's host, Mihai, enjoying a glass of 'horinca' at home. Above, Mihai's wife, Maria (right) and a neighbour gathering hay with homemade wooden rakes

One May evening I came down through orchards into the village. Peasants were walking home wearily from the fields, hoes or scythes on their shoulders and round-bottomed wicker baskets on their backs. 'We praise Jesus,' they said, greeting me, smiling. The correct reply was: 'And may he be praised for ever and ever, amen', but I was not yet familiar with these archaic forms. On inquiring where I could stay I was directed to the house of Mihai, son of Gheorghe, son of Stefan. He and his wife, Maria, had no children and so had room for visitors. I found Mihai, now 78, and Maria in a smoke-filled, rustic distillery, both in smocks and home-made shoes cross-gartered with leather thongs up to the knee. They welcomed me, gave me a mug of



freshly made *horinca* (Maramures schnapps made from plums and pears) and agreed to put me up for the night. In the end I stayed for four years.

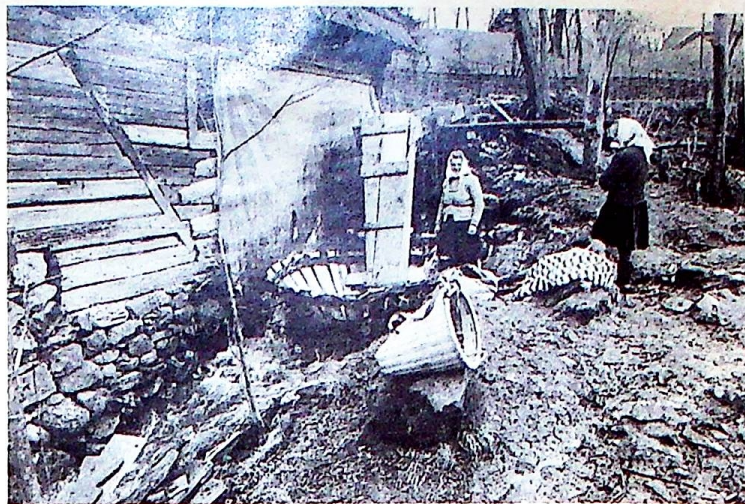
From then on my life proceeded at the pace of the haywain. No cars or telephones disturbed the peace, and communications with the outside world were effected through Petrovitch, the panting postman, who had to walk seven kilometres to reach us. The daily sounds were of the creak and rumble of carts and the shouts of their drivers, and the distant ring of the blacksmith beating out ploughshares and horseshoes.

In the evening, from my bedroom window, I could hear the melancholy songs of the homecoming peasants, and during the day the cries of gypsies hawking pots and pans or spare parts for handlooms. I got used to a countryside full of people, both young and old, all working in the fields, planting, hoeing, scything, raking or making ricks, chatting and laughing, fresh-faced and healthy, their bearing and demeanour making a mockery of the myth that we in western Europe, with all our wealth and washing-machines, are any happier than they.

I too wanted to work in the fields, but first it was necessary to get over the small difficulty of my being, as far as they were concerned, 'a gentle-

man'. They wouldn't countenance me sullyng my soft city hands, and besides, it was not polite to put a guest to work, however much he might beg you to let him. In the end I had to go to the weekly fair. There people from the surrounding villages thronged, travelling over the hills on foot or by cart, dressed in their best hats, pressed smocks, gathered skirts, petticoats and headscarves to buy, sell and be seen. I bought myself a scythe, had a handle made for it and returned triumphant. It now became impolite not to let me play with my new toy, so Mihai patiently taught me how to hammer out the blade and hone it. While friends in England were mastering the latest computer technology, I was learning how to mow. 'This,' as I wrote to a friend, 'is what I call progress.' Mihai, his nephews and I swung our shining-sharp scythes and turned the meadows into lawns while the girls, with wooden pitchforks, spread out the grass to dry. In the evening Mihai would tie the tools together with twisted grass, and before walking home, make the sign of the cross towards the setting sun.

Throughout the long summer days I practised my scything and learnt how to make haycocks and stacks, putting apples and pears between layers of hay to store them for winter. In August we harvested the wheat with sickles, tied it



Above, left, a funeral. Villagers gather round the coffin outside the deceased's house and hold lit candles for the two-hour service. They return to the house after a short church burial for a sumptuous feast. Above, from top, the communal 'washing-machine', used for rugs and heavy coats. The force of the water from the chute churns the clothes around in the wooden hopper underneath; dancing on Easter Monday. The young men pay for musicians and parade with them down the main track, singing, to summon the young women for the festivities; the threshing-machine. Left, men at the Thursday market. Their wool coats are loosely woven then thrown into the 'washing-machine' to fluff the fibres for warmth

into sheaves and left them to dry in the fields, impaled on 15ft wooden stakes. A month or two later, when the fields were covered in crocuses, the wheat was carted to the threshing-machine (made in Budapest before the Great War and still going strong) and the field mice who had made their nests in the sheaves had to jump for their lives moments before being fed into the whirring machinery. The grain, now in sacks, would be taken to the water mill in the next-door village, usually after dark.

When winter came, while the women wove cloth on the medieval-looking handlooms that every household possessed, and stitched the smocks which



The peasants looked forward to winter, with less work and more time for drinking, dancing and weddings

had to be ready for Easter, we would go into the forest to cut wood for the fire, the wind biting at our cheeks, and on Sundays and holy days visit neighbouring villages with the horse and sleigh. Winter was the season the peasants most looked forward to; there was less work and more time for drinking, dancing and weddings. It was also sadly time for Grigor the pig to die to provide us with food. Dragged behind the barn at dawn, he had a knife plunged into his throat; as he roared the blood splattered out on to the snow.

For the whole cycle of the seasons I stayed in the village, and then for another and another. Life there rolled on as it had for as long as anyone could remember – for, as the peasants say, ‘an eternity of eternities’. When I returned from a trip to another part of Romania villagers would ask me how I had got on ‘in the world’. Here, Communism was just another government no worse than any other, and where you worshipped was not of the importance some church leaders would have us think. I asked an old lady why she chose to go to the Catholic rather than the Orthodox church: ‘Because it’s closer,’ she said, ‘and they have chairs.’

Despite the hardships, or perhaps because of them, there is a wisdom and calm rare in our modern urban world. The people expect little from life and yet know how to be happy with what they have. They live in harmony with nature, solely from their few crops and animals, never throwing anything away and felling trees only for their own firewood and building materials.

But sadly the modern Western world despises a peasant because he does not consume its products. He must, therefore, be made to want things he has never wanted or needed before. The Maramures communities, which even survived 40 years of Communism, now faced a new threat against which they would be defenceless: Western-style advertising reached the village recently. Peasants gathered round neighbours’ fuzzy black-and-white TV screens and watched in amazement as naked ladies showered with highly desirable new hair soap called shampoo, and girls in shockingly short skirts sang the praises of coffee percolators. Money was immediately required to buy these irresistible new products.

I arrived back in April 2000 after a trip to England. Mihai set aside the cart harness he had been making and sat down with me to a glass of *horinca*. He was sad. ‘Have you noticed,’ he asked, ‘you can no longer see the cherry blossom? Everyone has been chopping their cherry trees down. Foreigners came and offered money for them. It used to be so beautiful at

this time of year, the white blossom all over the hills. People would not have done this in the old days.’ He shook his head. ‘It is not good.’ And Mihai has reason to be worried: what will happen when they run out of cherry trees? They will go to the towns and get jobs in the factories, their children will consider themselves too good to work on the land and it will be the end of the village and of the world as Mihai knows it. Perhaps Virginia Woolf will be proved right: ‘The peasants,’ she wrote, ‘are the great sanctuary of sanity... When they disappear there is no hope for the race.’

Top left, a bride and groom, pictured at 11am the day after the wedding party, which lasts all night. They are about to take part in a traditional ritual: guests hand the bride headscarves, which she casts away, before eventually accepting them to signify her married status. *Top right*, a couple from the next village. Their clothes – except their hats and her skirt – are homespun. The leather shoes lace up to the knees and socks are made from rectangles of woollen fabric wrapped around the legs. *Below*, the Whit Sunday procession. The priest blesses the fields and Orthodox hymns are sung



Friday, March 1st and Saturday, March 2nd 2002.

This was a special "Eastern Workshop" weekend for The Rainmakers.

Marina Wolstenholme travelled from a village in the Peak District via Sheffield and Luton (by car, bus, train and car) to teach at our annual workshop. She came with Jill and Peter (with whom she stayed) to our Friday club night. There we got to know each other and she introduced two Bulgarian dances to the programme. It was soon apparent that she is an expert in Balkan dancing as she has visited these countries many times and speaks the language.

Marina taught very clearly and encouraged us to adopt the right style from the start. "The people in this village are all big and fat" she said, "So you move like a bear". The music we danced to was beautiful too.

The Saturday workshop was held at Radwell Village Hall from 10.00 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. To allow Marina to catch her train to Sheffield.

I am told that twenty people were present, including Marina, with two people leaving and two others coming at lunch time - about ^{the} right ^{number} for the size of the hall. Marina taught seven more dances, two of which were Japanese. All the dances were more difficult than those she taught on Friday.

Marina brought a map of the Balkans to show the villages from which each Balkan dance came. She brought a costume ^{from} Romania and twenty round fans for the performance of a Japanese dance.

All this effort on her part was much appreciated by the members of the class. I understand that Marina has been very ill quite recently and we

sincerely hope that she had no after effects from her busy weekend.

There were fifteen Rainmakers on the day-course and four visitors to the club from elsewhere. We hope that all or at least some of these visitors will appear on a Friday evening at Letchworth.

I am told that it was a very happy day with a lot of laughter and enjoyment.

Marina's Dances

Friday 1st March 2002

Marina will introduce herself with:

Brâsni Câr vul (Bulgarian)

Stiga mi sa Momne le (Bulgarian)

These are both very easy.

Saturday 2nd March - Workshop Material

Hora de la Bran (Romanian)

Charachan Odori (Japanese)

Esashi Jinku (Japanese - couples)

Circle Csárdás (Hungarian – goes into couples)

Zabaljela Dunina Galovka (Russian – progressive couples)

Pomaško Širto (Bulgarian)

Satovčensko Horo (Bulgarian)



Barcelona

Card from Peter and Jill in Barcelona
where they danced the Sardana - but
not with these people!

15 / 3 / 02,



Women in Bolivia, hurrying to market.

Monday, March 18th 2002.



Photos taken on
Monday, 18th March
at "Redcoats" at
Jane's and Martin's
wedding.

It was a very
relaxed occasion,
Graham was
Best Man.

Till.

Sunday, 21st April 2002. 3.00 p.m.
Display at St. Andrew's Nursing Home, Hitchin.

On Sunday afternoon a group of Rainmakers went to St. ^{Andrew's} ~~Michael's~~ Nursing Home in Exchange Road Hitchin to entertain the residents there.

The team, Maria, Julie, Sheila, Graham, Peter, Diana, Jill, Richard, Mark, Patti, Sue and Adrian wore mixed costumes, so they looked very colourful. They danced for three quarters of an hour and the programme was as follows:—

- ALUNELUL
- NEOPOLITAN TARANTELLA
- BAILECITO
- BA PARDESS
- HORA CIMPULUNGULI
- BOANUPSTEKKER
- * LA BOURRÉ DE LA CHAPLOTTE
- WALENKI (Join in)
- CHASSENE
- * KREUZ KÖENIG
- STEIREGGER
- * TREKARLS POLSKA
- EIS WALTZER
- * APPENZELLER KLATCHWALTZER
- ~~FR~~ RENADIO
- STENKA (Join In).

* Sets.

The audience enjoyed the display very much and asked the dancers if they would return on a regular basis. This idea was put to the club on the following Friday. The consensus of opinion seemed to be that Rainmakers were very happy to go more often but not on a fixed, regular basis.



Cloudburst Band at Katka's 50th birthday party.



A "display" of spectacular Cero dancing by Katka's niece, Emmie and her partner, Richard.

Katka's Birthday Dance at Ickleford Village Hall.

Saturday, June 22nd, 7.30 - 11.00 p.m.

M.C. Jill Bransky

Band: Cloudburst.

In this season of Jubilee and celebrations there was one more party that has not been generally advertised. It was Katka's 50th birthday this week. She and John arranged a dance to celebrate it. Katka generously invited all the Rainmakers to join her and her family and other friends at Ickleford Village Hall.

We arrived in good time to find a crowd of non-costumed people already there who had been working hard, decorating the hall with pink and white criss-crossed ribbons, bunches of balloons and large notices on the stage saying "Katka 50". Others were setting out a sumptuous spread of food brought by the guests. Rainmakers and other friends were arriving all the time and the band was almost ready to play. There were quite a few children hopping about to the sound check music but they very soon disappeared to a special corner of the refreshment room where there was a T.V. with video, toys and games set up for them.

After a charming speech of welcome by John, (it struck me that he would make an ideal Best Man at a wedding, He is obviously Katka's Best Man!) Jill got the dance under way, pointing out that the programme on the wall had been colour coded to show grades of

difficulty in the dances. Katka had chosen the programme of her favourite dances, some of which she sang.

Practically everyone present went onto the floor for most of the dances. Fortunately the non Rainmaker or S.I.F.D. guests were quick learners and agile (to Jill's relief, I'm sure) so Jill did not have to do all that much teaching.

There were three entertainment "spots" during the evening. The first was a most spectacular display of Cero dancing by Emmie and Richard. This was like very expert Jive. We held our breaths as the lady was twirled about and flung over her partner's shoulder but she did not hit her head on the floor. Some of us murmured "Can we recruit this couple to the Rainmakers?" — especially after we had seen them dancing Tančuj and Kreyz Koenig. They sat down to rapturous applause.

After some more general dancing there was another chance for a breather whilst Katka gave John an amusing lesson in speaking Czech.

Cloudburst Band played beautifully. It will soon be its 25th Anniversary and from originally playing mainly English dance music they now play for dances in very many international styles, and with verve or gentle feeling as necessary.

During the Interval John made another short speech thanking everyone for coming. He remarked on what a long way some people had travelled to be there particularly Katka's parents from

Stuttgart. We all toasted Katka in champagne and she blew out the candles on her Birthday Cake.

Till soon called dancers back into the main hall to complete the evening's programme. Katka came in to sing "A Ja Taka" as people danced. She sang along with several of her favourite dances. I will mark these on the programme.

The final entertainment spot was of Balkan singing. Katka, Martin, Hazel, Wendy, Adrian, Till, Alan and Binette sang two traditional Czech songs to us. They have fine voices and the singing was much appreciated.

Most people joined in the remaining lively dances, (including Kreuz Köenig, El Corido and Neapolitan Tarantella) until Circassian Circle was reached. "Everyone must do this one unless they have sick notes from their doctors", cried Till. Martin, the bandleader, announced that this closing dance was not going to be danced to the traditional tunes. We soon found ourselves hopping along to "Nellie the Elephant".

With much laughter the party came to an end. Various people, especially Katka, were thanked. Katka looked as though she had enjoyed herself and the guests had certainly had a thoroughly good time.

Programme overleaf.

Programme: -

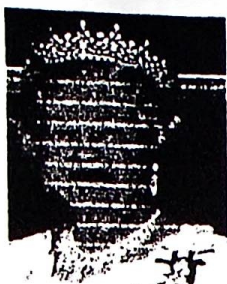
- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| • Boanipstekker | Dutch |
| • Alunchul | Romanian |
| • Doudleška Polka | Czech |
| • Inch Imanyee | Armenian |
| • Laner V' Libsamim | Israeli |
| • Chassene | Israeli |
| * • Tancuj | Czech |
| • Joc de leagane | Romanian |
| • La Bastringue | Canadian |
| • Sırba | Romanian |
| • Harimow | Israeli |
| • Dorset Four Hand Reel | English |
| • Pravo Trakijsko Horo | Bulgarian |
| • Nikolos | Greek |
| * • A Ja Taka | Slovakian |
| • Mellionen | Welsh |
| • Kreuz Köenig | German |
| • Ludo Mlado | Bulgarian |
| • El Corrida | Mexican |
| • Chotis de la Frontera | Mexican |
| • Neopolitan Tarantella | Italian |
| • Derishky Padruzhenky | Russian |

- Hoi Harmonica Israeli
- Ma Navu Israeli
- Circassian Circle. English

* Katka Sang.

Key.

- = Easy and will be walked.
- = Moderately easy to follow but will not be walked through
- = Difficult - Government Health Warning!



Queen's Golden Jubilee Celebrations

Multi-Cultural Dance Performance

On

29th June 2002

At

The Plinston Hall, Letchworth, Hertfordshire

From

5.00pm till Midnight

Programme



5.00pm- Doors open

5.15pm - Lighting the Traditional oil Lamp by the invited guests
to the beat of the Ceremonial Drums

5.30pm - Introduction - by the President Buddhist Community Centre

5.35pm - Speeches by Councillor Lorna Kercher, The Chairman
North Herts Dist Council, and The High Commissioner Of Sri Lanka

God Save the Queen (all the audience to sing)

6.00pm - 3min - Sri Lankan dance - Puja Dance - Students of Mrs Kumudu Perera

5min - Kathak - Prayer dance - Mrs Vina Ladwa

5min - Sri Lankan dance - Wilbury School Children

Students of Mrs Kumudu Perera

5min - English Country Dance - St Nicholas School children

5min - Sri Lankan Dance - St Nicholas School Dance

Students of Mrs Kumudu Perera

7 min - Kathak Dance - Mrs Vina Ladwa

20 min Magic Show

7.00pm - Interval (snacks will be served)

7min - Bharata Natya - Bhavan Centre

7min - Dutch - Dance - Rainmakers

10min - Irish Dance - Marie Grant

15min - Scottish Dance - Mrs L Claire

7min - Tabla - Sukhi Rayat

7min - Mexican Dance - Rainmakers

7min - Dhol - Sukhi Rayat

20min - Sri Lankan Dance - Wes Dance - Dancers from Sri Lanka

arrived for the Buddhist Procession in London agreed to perform
for the Golden Jubilee celebration

Raffle Draw

9.00pm Buffet - Multi-cultural food

10.00pm - Royal look - a - like competition - If anyone think that he or she looks
like any Royal to come dressed up in their costumes. Will be awarded a certificate and
a Prize to the individual looks a like what he represent to bc.

Bhangara Dance & Disco Dance music till midnight

12.00

Close down

This is a draft copy
some items may change
or not confirmed

MULTI CULTURAL EVENT, 29 June at Plinston Hall, Letchworth.

We have two spots of 7 mins. each, on the stage. (We will be dancing to tapes.)

7.37 pm Dutch spot.

Boanupsteker
Vleegert
Hakke Toone
Horlepiep.

8.16 pm Mexican Spot

~~Chotis de la Frontera~~

Jota Tapatio
Jesusita en Chihuahua
Mexican Hat Dance (Jarabe Tapatio)(one couple)
All reprise of end of Mexican Hat Dance.

The evening opens at 5.00pm and finishes at 12.00. I suggest that we meet at 7.00 in Dutch costume, bringing our Mexican costumes with us. Refreshments will be from 7.00- 7.30 pm. Pairs to be arranged.

Rehearsal 27th June at **Plinston Hall**, on the stage, 8pm to 10 pm.

If you have any problems or queries about costumes please talk to Maria.

Revised 18th June

Information for Daksha Rainmakers International Dance Group

MULTI CULTURAL EVENT, 29 June at Plinston Hall, Letchworth.
We have two spots of 7 mins. each, on the stage. (We will be dancing to tapes. Paul Calpin will be operating the PA. There will be a mic available on the stage)

7.37 pm Dutch spot.

Please say:

We meet every Friday at The Parish Hall, The Broadway, in Letchworth to dance a variety of Folk Dances from many countries. Our group celebrated its 25th Anniversary last year. Our first spot tonight is Dutch, chosen to represent Western European Dancing but also to show off our Volendam costumes which members of the group made.

Please announce the dances from the stage(Before and in between to be discussed) (We will be dancing on)

1. Boanupsteker (*Bone-up-stecker*) Means the 'Ice Breaker' – the dance is used to open an evening's entertainment – to break the ice.
2. Vleegert (*Vley-gerit*) means 'Throw your Wife' – this refers to a figure when couples change partners.
3. Hakke Toone (*Hacker-toone*) means 'Heel and Toe'
4. Horlepiep. (*Haul-a-peep*) This is a sailors' Hornpipe.

8.16 pm Mexican Spot

Our second spot shows dances from Mexico and includes the famous Mexican Hat Dance. Members made their own costumes, although the mens' hats came from Spain.

Please announce the dances from the stage.

(We will be walking on ready to dance this.)

1. Jota Tapatio (*Hot-are Tap-a-tea-oh*)
2. Jesusita en Chihuahua (*Yeas- you see-ta on Che-wa-wa*)
3. Jarabe Tapatio (*Yar-a-bay Tap-a-tea-oh*) this is the Mexican Hat Dance
- (4. All reprise of end of Mexican Hat Dance.)

MULTICULTURAL
DANCERS
THIS WAY



The Buddhist Community Centre
Letchworth

Is Proud to present
A
Multicultural variety
Entertainment

To Celebrate
The Queen's Golden Jubilee



On 29th June 2002
At The Plinston Hall
Letchworth
From 5.00pm till Midnight

Tickets

Child £2.00 Adult £5.00

The Buddhist Community Centre
Registered Charity Number 1088878
69, Pix Road, Letchworth,
Herts, SG6 1PZ
Organising Committee

Telephone 01462-641326
Latha—01462-686075
Sanjeev —07740584812

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE CELEBRATION

1952



2002

Queen Elizabeth II was born in London on 21st April 1926. She ascended the throne on 6th February 1952 when King George VI died. Her Majesty's coronation took place on 2nd June 1953.

Today we are celebrating the 50 years of her life on the throne as Queen of Great Britain and as the Head of the Commonwealth and the changes and achievements that had happened to make Britain as it is today.

When Princess Elizabeth ascended the throne in 1952, the British Empire ruled much of the world and the monarchy remained a highly respected institution. Since 1952 British Empire has been dismantled, many British colonies achieved to gain Independence without major conflicts. Today Britain is no longer the super power. The demise of the British Empire is the dawn of the "Commonwealth". Countries which used to be under British rule joined the Commonwealth. In spite of the post-war Welfare State, in 1952 millions of people in Britain had poor housing, poor health service, and less opportunities to change their lives.

Compared to Britain in 1952, the quality of life of the British people has improved. Now they have more comfortable homes, better paid jobs. Health services has improved, life expectancy has increased. It is due to better medication, improved diet and healthier lifestyles, and pleasant environment.

Today Britain's International relationships are much stronger. Britain has become a multiethnic, multicultural society, and one which is far more open, more equal and more tolerant of all minorities.

As The Buddhist Community Centre is serving the multiethnic and multicultural community in Letchworth we congratulate The Queen for her fifty years of service to the nation.

We wish Her Majesty Long life, Health and Happiness



Programme

- 5.00pm Doors Open
5.15pm Lighting the traditional oil lamp by the invited guests
5.30pm Introduction—By the President Buddhist Community Centre
5.35pm Speeches Councillor Lorna Kercher, Councillor Michael Muir— Chairman North Herts District Council and The High Commissioner of Sri Lanka Bob Hopcroft Head Master St Nicholas School, Letchworth

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN

ALL THE AUDIENCE TO SING



- 6.00pm Cultural Programme
Sri Lankan Dance—Students of Mrs Kumudu Perera
Kathak Dance by Mrs Vina Ladwa
Sri Lankan Dance—Wilbury Primary School Children—students of Mrs Kumudu Perera
English Country dance—St Nicholas Primary school children
Sri Lankan Dance—St Nicholas Primary School children students of Mrs Kumudu Perera
Tabla—By Mr Sukhi Ryat
Magic Show for children

7.30pm Interval (Snacks will be served)

- 8.00pm Kathak Dance—Mrs Vina Ladwa
Spanish Dance—by The rain makers
Sri Lankan Dance—by Sri Lanka State Dance Troupe
Irish Dance—Mrs Maria Grant
Scottish Dance—Mrs L Claire
Flute recital - by Mr Abhinav Sharma
Mexican Dance—by The Rain Makers
Dhol Drumming — By Mr Sukhi Ryat
Sri Lankan Dance by Students of Mrs Kumudu Perera

9.00pm Interval Buffet—Multi Cultural food

- 10.00pm Raffle Draw
Royal look a—like competition (Should come in a royal costume)
Bhangara dance and disco dance

12.00pm Close down



Buddhist monks residing in this centre help the inhabitants with their day to day problems, to get rid of their sufferings; and carry out services for their well being. Also they are visiting schools and other Interfaith organisations to give talks on Buddhism. On invitations they will visit home hospitals, and hospices, nursing homes to comfort the sick and to give their blessings and on special occasions

Daily (Alms) Dana

Morning—8.00am and Mid-Day—11.30am
Offering food to the monks, and Buddha Puja.
Pay Homage to the Buddha.

In the evening - 7.00pm to 8.00pm
Buddha Puja and chanting

Weekly—On Wednesdays
Loving-kindness & Breathing Meditation
6.30pm to 7.30pm

On Sundays

Insight Meditation—6.00pm to 7.00pm
Bodhi Puja—7.30pm to 8.30pm

Monthly—First Saturday

Dhamma Discussions—6.00pm to 7.00pm

Last Sunday

Observance of Eight Precepts
9.00am till 4.00pm - Special programme

Sinhalese Language Classes

Kandyan Dancing and Drumming
At The Brotherhood Hall

on Every Sunday from 12.30pm till 2.30pm

English Language for adult learners

Conducted by North Herts College
At The Buddhist Centre

On Every Thursday from 6.00 to 7.30pm

Senior Citizens Luncheon Club

Last Monday Of the Month

From 11.00am till 3.00pm

Sharing of food, watch a favourite video, Discussions on health topics and arrange trips.

A Multi-cultural Dance for the
Queen's Jubilee.

Saturday, 29th June 2002. 5pm. — midnight.
at

The Plinston Hall, Letchworth.

THE BUDDHIST COMMUNITY CENTRE
LETCWORTH
presents
**A MULTI CULTURAL
DANCE FOR THE
QUEEN'S JUBILEE**
on
SATURDAY 29th JUNE
at
THE PLINSTON HALL, LETCWORTH
5pm-Midnight
Face Painting • Magic Show
Multi-Cultural dances including a Sri Lankan Dance
performance by the Primary School children of
St Nicholas and Wilbury Schools.
Multi Cultural Food available
Admission: £5 adults, £2 children
Ticket enquiries 01462 641326/686075
215012E126 C



The Buddhist Community of Letchworth and surrounding areas decided to stage an event to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee some month's ago. When The Rainmakers were approached it was not clear exactly what it wanted our club to do and what form this celebration would take, so our members were a bit reluctant to commit themselves. At first it seemed likely that two couples would provide two dancing spots in a show. No mention was ever made to Spanish Dancing by the Buddhists or the Rainmakers (see the programme.) However, when more details emerged six couples agreed to give a display. A few more of us went along as non dancers.

When we arrived at the Princeton Hall the programme was already running one hour late and it was only 6.30 p.m. The welcome was friendly, the atmosphere cheerful, so we sat down and watched other items in the entertainment. These included a beautiful solo Kathak dance by Mrs. Vina Ladwa, tabla playing and a Magic Show for children before the Rainmakers were on for their first spot - Dutch Dancing.

Daksha made the announcements for our club. She explained who we were and gave the titles of the dances. The team danced on to Boanupstekker. This was followed by Vleegert, Hakke Toon and the Horlepief (4 couples). Everyone joined in the slow hornpipe at the end and turned to face the audience. The Volendam costumes looked very fine and the dancers gave a lively, polished performance which was well received by the onlookers.

After a short interval the programme was resumed. Quite soon The Rainmakers were on again, this time wearing Mexican costumes. They filled the stage in a very colourful way with the ladies wide skirts outstretched. Their programme was Jesusita en Chihuahua, Jota Tapatia and Jarabe Tapatic (the Mexican Hat Dance) for one couple. The audience was very attentive and they clapped along to the Hat Dance music. The display concluded with all the dancers joining in a reprise of the concluding figure of the Hat Dance and were rewarded by a well deserved warm round of applause.

The rest of the Multicultural Variety Entertainment included Irish and Scottish dancing, a flute recital, Dhol Drumming by Mr. Sukhi Ryaf and his students and two superb displays of Sri Lankan dance by two members of the Sri Lankan State Dance Troupe.

There followed a long interval during which vast quantities of food were served from the Buffet. The aroma of curry pervaded the air.

The next item in the evening was a display of Bhangara dancing by four elegant, agile young people. I took them to be professionals. Their first dance was traditional in style and very beautiful. The following dances were well executed but much more Westernised in style. One could see modern moves in it.

Many chairs were cleared to provide space for general dancing. I could see some people itching to get onto the floor, but first we had to have the "raffle draw".

At last The Rainmakers, with others, could show themselves to be "the oldest swingers in town" as they took to the floor (especially Jill and Peter) to the music of a very loud band. The first tune they played was the music of the Mexican Hat Dance!

The Chairman of North Herts. District Council spoke to Claire and said that he did not know that there were so many Dutch people in Letchworth!

Much credit must be given to the Buddhist Community for organising this event to bring together the local people. The Rainmakers

enjoyed themselves and represented our local dancing club very creditably.

It is a great shame that not one report of this unique special occasion to celebrate the Queen's Golden Jubilee appeared in the local newspapers.

At last! This report appeared in the Comet newspaper on August 1st 2002.

COMET, August 1, 2002 - 7

Comet News

Young dancers are a hit at Jubilee party

FIVE months of practice paid off for a group of Letchworth schoolchildren when they performed traditional Sri Lankan dance to over 300 admirers.

The performance of the dancers from Wilbury and St Nicholas Schools (left) was part of the packed entertainment programme as the Buddhist Community Centre hosted its own belated Golden Jubilee celebrations.

Stevenage mayor Pam Stuart and Letchworth councillor Lorna Kercher joined other community representatives at what was a colourful celebration of the Queen's 50 years on the throne and multi-ethnic music, dance and cuisine.

"It really was a wonderful celebration with a mixture of cosmopolitan cultures," said centre secretary Latha Gunatunga. "It gave a sense of

encouragement to all multi-ethnic communities to mix with other communities."

The Buddhist Community Centre on Pix Road was established two years ago by the Sri Lankan social and cultural organisation, FLAME.

To find out more about its activities, call Mrs Gunatunga on 01462 641326.



Children from the Wilbury and St. Nicholas' schools.



A solo Kathak dance, beautifully performed.

Daksha makes the announcements for the Rainmakers.





The Rainmakers' Dutch spot.



The Rainmakers' Mexican spot.



Dancers from Sri Lanka arrived in London for the Buddhist procession and agreed to dance at Letchworth.

Thank You



Note of thanks from the Buddhist Community.

To The Rain makers

Just a note to say

Thank you very much
we enjoyed the dance
performances. Thank you for
accepting our invitation to
perform on our multi-cultural
Jubilee celebration. I hope
you enjoyed the evening as well.

Latha Anandya
Secretary
Buddhit Centre.

Betty & Henry

Rainmakers Dates 2002

Friday 19 July	End of term party
Friday 26 July	Extra night at hall
Friday 2 August	Garden evening Sheila Leavy 8 Hallmead, Letchworth SG6 4BJ 01462 636038
Friday 9 August	Garden evening Julie Brix 3 Talbot St, Hertford SG13 7BX 01992 503078
Friday 16 August	Garden evening Peter and Jill Bransby Red Gables, Benslow Path, The Avenue, Hitchin SG4 9RH 01462 457791
Friday 23 August	Garden evening Adrian and Sue Barter 5 Langbridge Close, Hitchin SG4 9EL 01462 459349
Friday 30 August	Start at hall
Friday 27 September	Anniversary Dance
Saturday 19 October	Invited to Cloudburst Dance
Friday 1 November	AGM

Garden evenings

Start at 7.30 pm. Please bring contributions of food and/or drink. All evenings go ahead, wet or dry.

PLB

15.7.2002

Setty + Henry

JULIE

requests the pleasure of your company on the occasion of her

60th BIRTHDAY

on SATURDAY JULY 20th
in BENINGTON VILLAGE HALL*
from 7 - 11pm

Please come bearing gifts for the buffet only.

*Benington village hall is situated within the grounds of Benington Lordship
opposite the duck pond.
The car park is adjacent.



R.S.V.P.

Julie Brix
3 Talbot Street
Hertford
Herts
SG13 7BX

01992 503078

Julie's Party on Saturday, 20th July, 7-11pm

- Walenki
- Ba Pardess

- Branle de Connay
- Swedish Schottishe

- Polka Dot
- Kreuz Koenig

- Devusky Padruzhenky
- Salty Dog Rag

- Pravo Trakijsko Horo
- Foula Reel

- Maya
- Doudlebska Polka

- Laner V' Libsamin
- Jesusita en Chihuahua

- Shir Ha Chatuna
- Russian Lyrical

- Tancuj
- Dorset Four Hand Reel

- ~~Rav Brachot~~
- Kotataki Ondo

- ~~Twelfth Street Rag~~
- ~~Renningen~~

- Neapolitan Tarantella
- Musica Nisherat

- Mari Mariko
- Stenka

HAPPY BIRTHDAY JULIE!

KEY:

- = EASY TO FOLLOW AND WILL BE CALLED OR WALKED
- = MODERATELY EASY, BUT WILL NOT BE WALKED
- = DIFFICULT- GOVERNMENT HEATH WARNING!

Saturday, July 20th 2002.
Julie's Party.

Yet another celebration by a member of Rainmakers. Julie decided to hold a party on her 60th birthday at Benington Village Hall. She invited members of her family, her Rambling Club, other friends and the Rainmakers.

Till was the M.C. for a programme of Julie's favourite dances, entirely chosen by her. They varied in difficulty but some non-Rainmakers needed much encouragement to join in.

During the evening there were two entertainments. Firstly Graham and Adrian performed the Ox Dances and later Graham recited a Stanley Holloway monologue about the building of Noah's Ark. Both items were very amusing and gave us all a laugh.

It was extremely kind of Julie to invite us to her party and her generosity was much appreciated.