



RAINMAKERS' SCRAPBOOK

VOLUME 22 2003~2004

Volume 22

The

Rainmakers'

Scrapbook

From

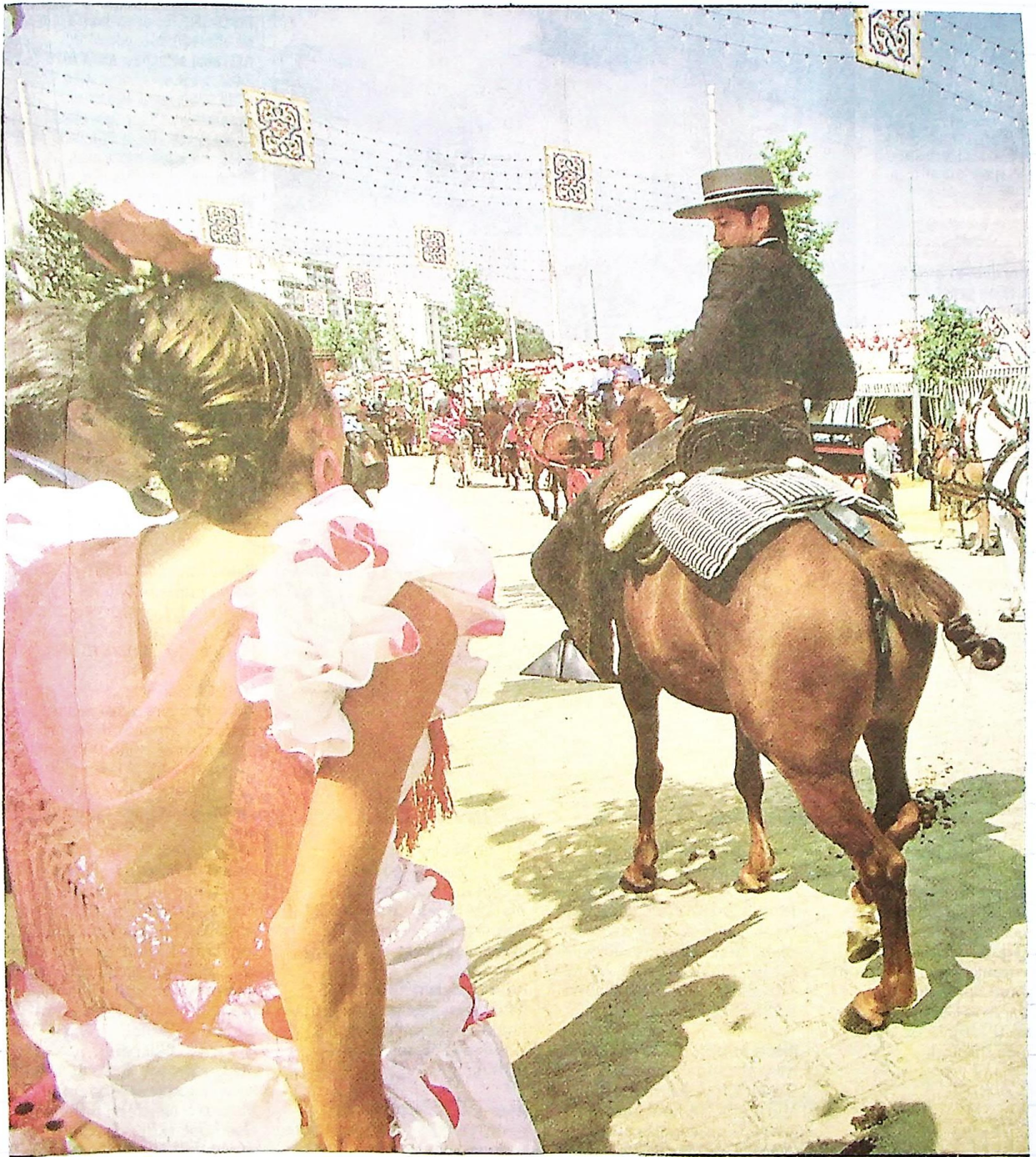
September 2003

To

August 2004

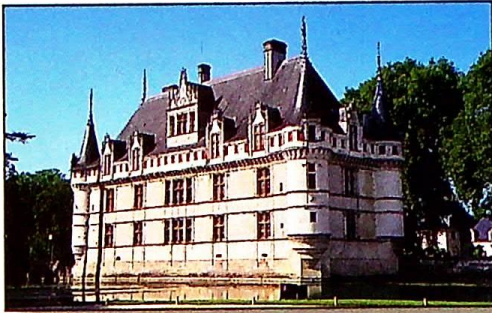
Cover picture:—

Spaniards in Seville
on fiesta day.



Andalusia
Fiesta in Seville.

Azay - le - Rideau

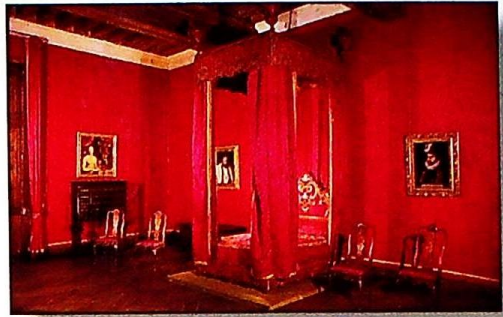
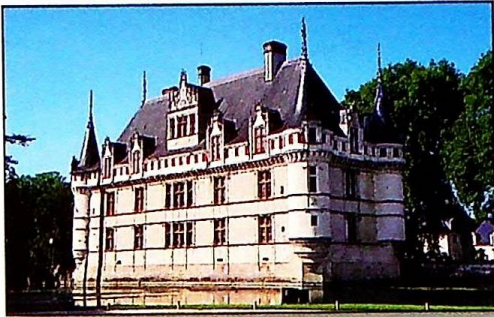


September 23rd 2003. Card from Sue and Adrian on a touring holiday in France.
Picture - Loire Valley.



October 3rd. 2003. Note of thanks from Jill, recuperating from an operation.

Azay - le - Rideau



September 23rd 2003. Card from Sue and Adrian on a touring holiday in France.
Picture - Loire Valley.

Oct 3rd

Dear all,

Thank you very much for the beautiful gloves which I am enjoying.

Peter took a photo of them so that you can see them for yourselves - see front of card.

Thank you for the lovely card and especially for your good wishes for my recovery.

I'm doing well. See you soon I hope. Love Jill

October 3rd. 2003. Note of thanks from Jill, recuperating from an operation.

Rainmakers' 27th Anniversary Dance.
Friday, 17th October, 2003.

Rainmakers' 27th Anniversary Dance was held on Friday, 17th October 2003 at St. Michael's Hall (now known as The Parish Hall) Letchworth.

It has proved to be a good idea to hold our annual dance on a Friday night as there were present 35 paying dancers i.e. most of our members, three visitors and two young children who counted as one. Also in the room were two honoured guests, Mr. and Mrs. Flanagan, (better known as Janet and Frank), three musicians and the caller - total 41 people.

Despite being convalescent from a recent major operation, Till Bransby was there to call, esconced in a comfortable garden chair. However she ventured onto the floor from time to time to dance a gentle, slow dance and to demonstrate a move or step to help our visitors who had little idea of our international type of dancing.

Martin Butler and his friends Hazel and Adrian of Cloudburst Band were joined occasionally by a club member, Louise, with her violin. They were on splendid form, varying their playing from loud to soft and generally giving a great lift to the dancing. Sometimes they came into the middle of the room and we danced round them.

A new music centre that will play C.D.s was promised to be delivered by

Coomber, weeks before the dance so that those operating it could become accustomed to its working, arrived only on "the" day. Fortunately it was not needed very much as most of the dances were played by the band.

Almost everyone present was wearing a folk costume which added to the jolly atmosphere of the occasion.

After a long interval for conversation and the consumption of delicious refreshments brought by the members and organised by Maria, we continued with the programme of dances requested by members.

The next break in the proceedings came for us to be entertained by Isabel. She recited two Scottish poems called "McAllister Dances before the King" and "Such Manners!" These were very amusing and were much appreciated.

However swiftly Jill tried to press on with the programme, it became obvious that a few dances would have to be left out before we stopped at 11.00 p.m. With apologies to the people whose choices had been omitted it was promised that they would be danced in future weeks.

Peter thanked Jill, the band, Maria and all who had helped to make the Rainmakers' 27th Anniversary a happy evening.

Rainmakers 27th Anniversary Dance,
Friday, 17th October, 2003.

Tzadik Katamar
Djatchko Kolo
Le Rond Argentonnais

Hakke Toone
Little Man in a Fix

Changerais-tu?

Lublin Polka
Lublin Waltz – Walczyk

Zabaljela Dunina Galovka

Joc in Patru

Gort Met Stroop
Fadinho Tres Tempos

Bourrée de La Chapelotte

Ada's Kujawiak

Hora Hadera

Mellionen
Levi Jackson's Rag

Maya

El Corrido
Maple Leaf Rag

Ludo Mlado

Kreuz Koenig
Pirinska Pesen

Renningen

Devushky Padruzhenky

Mexican Hat Dance – Jarabe Tapatio
Neapolitan Tarantella

Pomaško Širto

Kryzok
Zemer Atik

Dorset Four Hand Reel

Bourrée de la Brande d'Ardenes

Födelsdagwals

Ba Pardess

Betty & Henry Lee

Rainmakers Dates
At 17 October 2003

<i>Saturday/Sunday 18/19 October</i>	<i>Dance with the World event at Cecil Sharp House</i>
<i>Sunday 2 November</i>	<i>SIFD Dance</i>
<i>Saturday 15 November</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course – Maggie O'Regan</i>
<i>Friday 28 November</i>	<i>AGM</i>
<i>Sunday 7 December</i>	<i>Rainmakers to call at SIFD dance, Cecil Sharp House</i>
<i>Saturday 13 December</i>	<i>Martin and Jane's French party at Rose Hill Centre of Healthy Living, Letchworth. Workshops from 2 pm, concert 7 pm, Bal 7.30 pm to midnight, <i>Cancelled.</i></i>
<i>Friday 19 December</i>	<i>End of term party</i>
<i>Friday 26 December</i>	<i>No meeting</i>
<i>Friday 2 January</i>	<i>Meeting at hall</i>

PLB 17.10.2003

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

AGM - Friday 28 November 2003 at 8 pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of 2002 AGM
 - a. Accuracy
 - b. Matters arising including
 - i. Min 3.1 – Equipment.
 - ii. Min 3.1 – Workshops
 - iii. Min 3.1 – SIFD constitution
 - iv. Min 9.2 – Demonstrations
 - v. Min 9.3 – Letchworth Centenary
 - vi. Min 9.4 – Irish Set Dance
4. Secretary's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Appointment of Independent Examiner
7. Election of new Committee
8. AOB

Rainmakers

Minutes of the AGM held at 8.05pm on 1 November 2002 at the Parish Hall, Letchworth

1	<p>Welcome In the absence of an elected Chairman, the Committee had invited Peter to chair the meeting.</p> <p>Peter welcomed those attending and declared that a quorum was present.</p>	
2	<p>Attendance and apologies Those present (22 members and 2 guests) recorded their names on a sheet circulated for the purpose. Apologies had been received from Janet, Graham, Katka, Louise, Roger and Peg.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p>	
3.1	<p>AGM 23 November 2001</p> <p><i>Accuracy</i> Grammatical and spelling errors were corrected in paras 4.5 (Dalila), 4.7 (, not .), 9.4 (recommended) and 10.1 (access to). With these corrections, the minutes were accepted as a true record.</p> <p><i>Matters arising</i> Peter reported on the following items</p> <p>4.1. Equipment. The Committee had decided not to take any action to replace the Coomber, but had investigated the possibility of grant funding. This was becoming urgent and would need further consideration soon by the new Committee.</p> <p>9.4 Workshops. Peter noted that a day course had been organised in 2002, with another one arranged for March 2003. He asked whether the club wanted, in addition, Friday evening workshops with external teachers, though costs would not be covered by SIFD. Richard thought that the club could afford to pay reasonable travel and tuition expenses. The general feeling was that members would enjoy such workshops and the Committee was encouraged to take this forward.</p> <p>11.3 SIFD. Peter reported that the Committee had considered the implications of our change in status from Affiliated to Associated. As a result, Richard had made suggestions to the SIFD Committee for a change in their constitution, which was to be considered by the SIFD AGM in December.</p> <p>Peter indicated that he would raise items relating to paras 4.7, 4.8, 9.3, and 11.2 under AOB.</p> <p>There were no other matters arising.</p>	<p align="center">Committee</p> <p align="center">Committee</p>
3.2	<p>EGM 25 January 2002</p> <p><i>Accuracy</i> The minutes were accepted as an accurate record</p> <p><i>Matters arising</i> There were no matters arising not covered by the agenda.</p>	
4	<p>Secretary's report</p>	
4.1	<p>Report on year Betty gave a report on the year's activities, a copy of which is available, and which was received by acclamation.</p>	
4.2	<p>Thanks Peter thanked the many people who had helped the club over the year, including Jill and other mcs, Betty, Maria, Graham, Daksha, Mark and Patty, all the Committee, as well as the many other members who had helped.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer's report Richard introduced the accounts. Following a proposal from Richard, seconded by Curlew, they were accepted unanimously. Peter noted that the Committee had agreed not</p>	

	to recommend a change to either weekly or annual fees.	
6	Appointment of Independent Examiner Richard proposed, and Adrian seconded, that Bill Thorne be appointed for a further year, and this was approved unanimously. Jill asked that a vote of thanks be conveyed to Bill	Richard
7	Election of new Committee Peter reported that nominations, properly seconded, had been received as follows: Secretary Peter, Treasurer Richard, Committee Adrian, Curle, Katka and Roger. He invited further nominations, especially for Chairman, but none were forthcoming. Peter proposed that all those nominated should be elected <i>en bloc</i> , and that the Committee should continue to act in the same way as in the previous year, with the freedom to appoint an acting Chairman if they thought fit. Mark seconded the motion. In discussion, Richard expressed his concern about the continuing lack of a Chairman, but accepted that the Committee had worked well. No other ways forward were suggested. The motion was put to a vote and was approved unanimously.	
8	Amendment of the Constitution The Committee proposed that the Constitution should be amended such that the section of Clause 6c shown here in italics should be deleted: <i>6c Withdrawals from any club account shall require two signatories save for a transfer between accounts, which may be on the authority of one signatory.</i> Mark seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously.	
9	Any other business	
9.1	Newsletter It was agreed that it would be useful to have the dates sheet circulated to all members, say twice a term, including information on garden evenings when appropriate. There was felt to be no need of further content.	Committee
9.2	Demonstrations It was agreed, in general, but with two exceptions, that the present reactive approach to demonstrations was appropriate. However, we should take a pro-active approach in organising, say, quarterly demonstrations in old peoples' homes. We should also consider targeting younger people at appropriate functions (e.g. guides, after school clubs), and Belinda offered help in a few months when she might have some time available. A demonstration at <i>Rhythms of the World</i> was also suggested.	Committee Committee
9.3	Letchworth Centenary celebrations Peter reported that we had been invited to attend meetings organised by Letchworth Heritage and the Parish Hall to discuss how the centenary might be celebrated. We had no feedback yet from the latter, attended by Katka. The Heritage meeting attended by Adrian had been unhelpful, and it appeared that each organisation was to do its own thing, perhaps with co-ordination of dates, though there was the possibility of funding. The Committee had discussed the possibility of linking with any dance activities led by the Town Twinning organisation, and Richard asked if Claire could find contact details so he could follow the idea up. Members felt that the club should try to do something, especially if it had an international dimension and would serve to promote the club to potential new members. An international barn dance was suggested, or an activity linked with the opening of the refurbished Kennedy Gardens. The matter was referred to the Committee for consideration.	Claire, Richard Committee
9.4	Irish Set Dance Jill reported that the group would not meet in December, January, February or March. Future arrangements were uncertain.	
10	Closure There being no other business, Peter closed the meeting at 9.05pm.	

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME

<u>2001/2002</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>		<u>2002/2003</u>
994.00	Weekly subscriptions (1)	1041.30	
	Friday workshop (2)	57.50	
	Collection for presents etc	91.70	
			1190.50

	<u>EVENTS</u>		
314.00	Anniversary dance	104.00	
113.65	Day course	91.35	
10.00	Donations (3)	59.66	
-	Berden Garden Fete	100.00	355.01

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
111.00	Annual subscriptions (4)	123.00	
2.68	Interest	2.31	
			125.31

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1545.33			1670.82

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 August 2003

EXPENDITURE

<u>2001/2002</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>		<u>2002/2003</u>
790.00	Hire of Hall	786.00	
19.00	Squash	21.52	
-	Caller's etc expenses	50.00	
	Slipstop	14.50	
-	Miscellaneous catering expenses	7.58	
	Set and Turn a Single	7.00	
17.50	Electrical check	-	
12.09	Fans and baskets	1.50	
13.40	Keys	17.50	
17.64	Flowers, presents and cards	138.20	
4.78	Miscellaneous	7.94	1051.74

	<u>EVENTS</u>		
345.13	Anniversary dance	50.00	
64.84	Day course	48.03	
4.88	Napkins and plates	-	
			98.03

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
-	SIFD affiliation fee (5)	-	
59.97	Insurance (5)	66.62	
2.70	Postage	8.91	
2.00	Phone (6)	2.00	
3.29	Stationery etc.	24.00	
-	Exhibition	8.05	
-	Date sheets	3.00	
9.01	Scrapbook	1.79	114.37

	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>		
1.99	Extension lead	-	

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1368.22			1264.14
177.11	Excess of income over expenditure		406.68
-----			-----
1545.33			1670.82

2001/20022002/2003

1545.33	Income	1670.82
1368.22	Net Expenditure	1264.14
-----		-----
177.11	Excess of income over expenditure	406.68
981.96	Balance brought forward	1159.07
-----		-----
1159.07	Balance carried forward	1565.75
-----		-----

210.11	Cash in hand	57.80
948.96	Bank	1507.95
-----		-----
1159.07		1565.75
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance) (see note 7)

309.14	Balance brought forward	329.95
22.80	Events Profit	256.98
-----		-----
331.94		586.93
1.99	Purchases/Repairs	-
-----		-----
329.95	Balance carried forward	586.93
-----		-----

1159.07	Balance	1565.75
329.95	Equipment Fund	586.93
-----		-----
829.12	Working Capital	978.82
-----		-----

Notes attaching to and forming part of the accounts

1. 43 weeks with an average attendance of just over 18.5, up very slightly.
2. 23 people attended.
3. Donations consisted of £3 from two anonymous sources and £56.66 as the closing balance transferred from the Irish Set Dance.
4. 41 members.
5. As an Associated Club of SIFD we no longer pay an annual subscription or Public Liability insurance, saving us £48.30.
6. The secretary has not claimed for any postage or phone.
7. As the club is aware the equipment is to be replaced. We are testing a new Coomber that will include a CD player during October. The cost of this equipment, if we decide to take up the purchase option, will be £485 plus delivery.

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 *October 3rd 2003.*

Friday, 28th November 2003.

Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting.

The meeting opened at 8 p.m. with Roger in the chair.

Nineteen members were present.

Six apologies for absence were received.

The Agenda and the Minutes of the A.G.M. 2002 had been given to all members several weeks beforehand.

Matters Arising from A.G.M. 2002.

1. New equipment fund. No grants were requested from N.H.D.C. or other sources as we have sufficient money in club funds.
2. Dancing workshops were held in March and October.
3. The proposed amendments to the S.I.F.D. constitution proposed by Richard and Peter of Rainmakers will be put forward at the A.G.M. of the S.I.F.D. on December 7th 2003. (See S.I.F.D. Newsletter for details.)
4. Dancing demonstrations were discussed. Two homes for the elderly and disabled were visited. A last minute request for a display at Borden Village Fete was accepted. Very enjoyable and a fee of £100 given to club funds.
5. Publicity was discussed. Participation in Hitchin's Rhythms of the World weekend was suggested.
Rainmakers will be participating in some of Letchworth's Centenary celebrations. A stand was taken in St. Michael's Church in June to exhibit the activities of clubs in the Parish. A team will dance in the town centre on "let's Make a Noise" day.

The suggested visit to Wissen (Town Twinning) got no further. Only youth football teams were going.
6. The Irish Set Dance Group has ceased to exist. Surplus money was donated to Rainmakers.

Secretary's Report.

Peter delegated Betty to give a round-up of the club's activities during the year. This is attached to this report. She was thanked by Roger.

Peter then thanked the many people who work to keep the club going, especially Jill.
(Warm applause from members.)

Treasurer's Report.

The Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet had been circulated.

Richard reported that the club's finances are in a healthy state. We have a working capital of £1000.

No changes will be necessary to the annual or weekly subscriptions.

The Independent Examiner, Bill Thorne, will be officially thanked.

Election of Officers.

Chairman: — None. Committee members will take turns.

Secretary:- Peter Bransby

Treasurer:- Richard Thom.

Committee:- Adrian Baster

Roger Lowes

Julie Brix.

Katka Kessler

Belinda Gee.

Any Other Business.

1. Jill proposed having a shared evening next term. Members will volunteer to lead one or two dances each. This was fixed for January 9th.
2. A special vote of thanks was made to Roger for the enormous amount of work he has done in transferring music for dances, ^{from cassettes} to C.D.s.
3. The new music equipment has been ordered. A portogram was looked at but the committee has gone back to Coomber and ordered a machine that will play C.D.s and has other features that we need, e.g. an ability to increase or turn down speed.
4. The "Recruitment Issue" was raised by Peter. Members had no new ideas to attract younger members to our club. Graham said that the younger element are not wanting to join clubs and societies.
5. A few notices were given out.

Among them :-

The Christmas Party will be on December 19th. Jill will lead the dance at Cecil Sharp House on December 7th.

Patti has an Art Exhibition in Welwyn. February 7th. A Day Course at Radwell taught by Maggie O'Regan.

The meeting closed at 8.55 p.m.

The Rainmakers' Year September 2002 - September 2003.

This has been the 27th year since the club's inception. It has been noted that quite a few of our members have become grandparents this year or have celebrated birthdays of significant denominations. Nevertheless a goodly number of people have met each week to enjoy international folk dancing.

The first event of the Autumn term was an "Open Evening" on September 20th, held to attract new members. Nobody "new" came but a few "old" faces appeared, never to be seen again. However, it did the rest of us good to be reminded of how exactly a dance should be performed as we become careless over time.

Friday, 27th September was the date of our 26th Anniversary Dance and it was held in St. Michael's Hall, Letchworth. Thirty-one people were present. It was a very warm evening. As our dancing space here has been restricted by the equipment of the nursery school we put the band inside the circle. We liked it - it was more integrated - very cosy. Did Graham regret wearing his sheepskin Balkan hat that night?

During the next week several Rainmakers attended the funeral of Margery Heskins, the club's second chairman. Her tragic death was referred to at the end of last year's report.

On the following Sunday, October 6th, Jill planned the programme and was M.C. for

the S.I.F.D.'s monthly dance at Cecil Sharp House. Over 50 people attended, including a few from our club. The evening went very well and Jill kept most of the people there on the floor, enjoying the dancing.

Cloudburst Band, with whom our club has very close links, celebrated 25 years of "Playing Together" on October 19th. Martin Butler inadvertently referred to it as their "Silver Wedding Anniversary". A dozen or so Rainmakers joined the band, past band members, many callers who had worked with the band at their dance party at Ickleford. Many happy times were remembered.

The Annual General Meeting came round on November 1st. Once again no-one stood as our official Chairman but the committee agreed to work without one, electing a Chairman at each committee meeting.

Soon after this Jill and Peter went off for their long, special holiday. In their absence the club continued to meet with the remaining committee members keeping things going and several club members taking turns to organise Friday evenings. This included the Christmas Party on December 20th.

From time to time interesting postcards and messages came from New Zealand and Japan where Jill and Peter sought out local customs. They saw Maori stick dances, had a "go" at twirling paper poi and

ate food cooked in a "steam iron." (not the type we use to press our clothes, I hasten to add!) In Japan they saw Japanese fans being made, attended a family wedding and ate raw fish for breakfast. I'm glad this did not appear on our Christmas Party menu!

Preparations began in the New Year for Letchworth's Centenary Celebrations. Adrian and Jill attended some of these meetings.

Tanet Woolbar made her annual visit to the Rainmakers on Saturday, 15th March. She taught a Day Course of dances from Romania, Bulgaria, France, Italy, Serbia and Russia at Radwell Village Hall. Most of the dances in our repertoire originate from Tanet's courses.

On Monday, March 24th, a group of Rainmakers went to Reynolds Day Centre to give a display of dances. This was much enjoyed by the patients who also liked joining in some dances.

We lost another stalwart member of the Rainmakers in its early days with the death of Dalphine Stacey on May 18th. Dalphine and her husband, Gordon, helped Jill, together with Roy and Renée Bowtell to start up our club in 1976. In recent years Dalphine and Gordon lived in Suffolk. Dancers were well represented at the Service of Thanksgiving that included six Rainmakers.

Letchworth Garden City Centenary celebrations punctuated the Summer. The first event that involved the Rainmakers

was a Church and Community Exhibition held in St. Michael's Church, next to this hall on June 7th and 8th. On this day the newly refurbished and re-named Broadway Gardens were officially opened. The exhibition consisted of display stands put up by the organisations that use the Parish Hall, next to the church to alert the people of the area what is going on in their parish. It was a very hot weekend. Peter and Jill had prepared an attractive stand. Ten Rainmakers manned the display over two days. People stopped to look and chat. One old lady asked me if I was a gipsy - I was wearing Portuguese costume!

The club evening on Friday, June 13th, was given entirely to Swedish dancing. Kerry Fletcher, a visiting teacher, taught social dancing as you would find it in Sweden. There were no set dances, just couple dances with free-style variations. There happened to be 13 couples present with, amazingly, equal numbers of men and women.

Saturday, July 5th was full of action for some Rainmakers. A team of twelve members danced in Letchworth town centre as part of the Heritage celebrations. It was a very hot day so they were glad to take turns with the Morris Men.

Martin Butler played, Jill was interviewed and the "flying" version of Kreuz Köenig was a great hit with the public.

This date also happened to be Richard's

50th birthday. He very generously invited all his dancing friends to a dance party in Baldock. The Yetties Band from Dorset played for English dancing, sang songs and told jokes. In between there was International Dancing displays and joining-in. A surprise item came when Jill, remembering a time 20 years ago when Richard boasted that he could dance Parson's Farewell blindfolded, produced a scarf and tied it over his eyes. As the band struck up, Jill, Graham Janet and Richard proceeded to dance. Richard performed very well indeed. In thanking Richard on behalf of all his guests, Peter Shea said "he" was glad Richard had reached the age of maturity." There were roars of laughter from the company. It was a great evening.

Early the next week 5 Rainmakers went to the Hangollen International Fisteddfod of music and dancing.

The hot weather continued when a team of Rainmakers danced at Berden Village fête, held at Berden Hall in Essex. Apparently it was a very enjoyable occasion. The Mexican Hat Dance was particularly appreciated by a young Mexican lady who insisted on being photographed with the team who had earned a large fee for club funds.

The term ended on July 25th with our traditional party.

The club did not close, however, as

five successful Garden Evenings were held during August.

The new club year began on September 5th with members looking forward to the arrival of a new Coomber that will play C. D. s as well as cassettes.

I wonder whether some of the new grandchildren will eventually become international folk dancers and keep the club going.

S.I.F.D. Sunday Dance – December 7th,
led by Jill Bransby on behalf of the Rainmakers.

Hora Chadera
Lo Ahavti Dai

Branle Maitre de la Maison
La Vezi la Veson

Kleiner Schottisch
Der Steiregger

Hora de la Risipiti
Sirba din Cimpoi

Dorset Triumph
Dorset Four Hand Reel

Pomasko Sirto (Tape)
Dvazhdi, trizhdi (Tape)

La Bourrée Croisée
Deux, Deux, Deux

Te'en (Tape)
Dar Gorani (Tape)

Pariser Polka
Snurrvals (Tape)

Rav Brachot
Harimon

Interval dances

Skopski sa-sa - Macedonia

Sibirski Chorovod - Russia

Jikino kolo - Serbia

Sofia's Hora Mare - Romania

Promoroaca - Romania

Ali Pasha - Turkey

Busuiocul - Romania

Horehronsky Czardas - Czech

De Strigat - Romania

Yaman Yar - Armenia

Cacak – Serbia

Ada's Krawiak (Tape)
Changerais tu? (Tape)

Interval Dancing led by Fiona Howarth at 8.25pm

Boanupstekker
Ys Wals

Hine Ma Tov
Haro'a Haketana

Girls' Dance from Kalosca
La Bourrée Tournante des Grandes Poteries

Jota Antiqua
Lludo Mlado

Tarantella Montevirgene
Mazurka di Graziella (Tape)

Machar

Devushky Padruzhenky

Hambo
~~Russian Lyrical~~

~~Ba Pardess~~
Mombar (Tape)



Christmas Card from Letchworth
Garden City Heritage Foundation.

Letchworth Garden City
Tourist Information Centre

Heritage Foundation
Minibus Service

Standalone Farm

Ernest Gardiner Day Hospital

Broadway Cinema Ltd

First Garden City
Heritage Museum

Plinston Hall

Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation

Garden City Technologies Ltd

Letchworth Garden
City Farms Ltd

Letchworth Cottages
& Buildings Ltd

Spirella Ballroom

Letchworth Garden City
Services Ltd

Front of card: The Lord Mayor's Show, London - November 2003

**Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a
successful and prosperous 2004**

Christine



Christmas Party, 2003

Hine Ma Tov
Hoi Harmonica
Trikot
Trommelvals
Charachan Odori
Graham's monologue
Fodelsdagvals
Pirinska Pesen
Polka Dot
Kreuz Koenig
Julie's Game
Joc in Patru
Ada's Kujawiak
Stenka
Sprotzer Achterum
Katka Singing
Jota Mallorquins
Danca da Colheita
Mazurca de Graziella
Announcement of baby pictures*
Steiregger
Shir Ha Chatuna
Mombar (with candles)

* Pens and paper provided and folks can guess the identities of the babies during the evening.

Valse Ecosaise (This will follow the Interval wherever that comes in the dance programme.)

There may be time for some more dancing.

Friday, December 19th 2003.

Christmas Party.

It was party time again at the Rainmakers' club evening last Friday. The committee and Jill had devised a suitably jolly programme of requested dances, monologue, songs and two games to entertain us.

A fortnight beforehand members had been asked to bring photographs of themselves as very young children and secretly give them to Julie. On party night these were displayed for us to guess who they were. Only nine pictures were produced but it proved to be very difficult to guess who they were. There was much laughter and comment. Louise was the winner who correctly guessed four - out of nine!

Graham was our first entertainer. He recited a monologue about Magic Mittens, The magic word in this poem was "Alacazam!". This was interpreted as "Alec has ham" by the lucky young chap in the story whose wish was granted. As I sliced some gammon I tried it out. Alas! no genie appeared, but then, I was not wearing magic mittens. As Graham's item had been left out of the Anniversary Dance programme there was a double reason to applaud him warmly.

After a spell of dancing Julie divided us into five teams. This was for a quiz with questions about countries, including about their dances. Again, this was not an easy game and some questions caused contention (such as What is the dominant religion of —?) However, the team that took the prize were the easy winners.

It was nice to see Katka back at the club after all her injuries and infirmities. She had come to sing two Czech songs for us. These were delightful and beautifully performed.

During the interval for refreshments the club members, as ~~is~~ customary, thanked Jill for all her hard work for us throughout the year, by giving her a present. It was a silver photograph frame and a very large flower pot. We hope Jill will enjoy using both.

The evening ended with the whole company, about thirty of us, dancing Mombai with candles.

It had been a very enjoyable, varied evening.



The Dancing Lesson by Cruickshank 1835. Note the dancing master accompanying the lesson on his 'kit', a miniature fiddle, the two young dancers trying to emulate his wonderful second position and their poor friend looking on unhappily from 'the Box' in which she is standing. The Box had special places for the feet to make them point out! If your foot positions were not good, you were forced to stand in the Box in the correct position. All RSCDS teachers take note

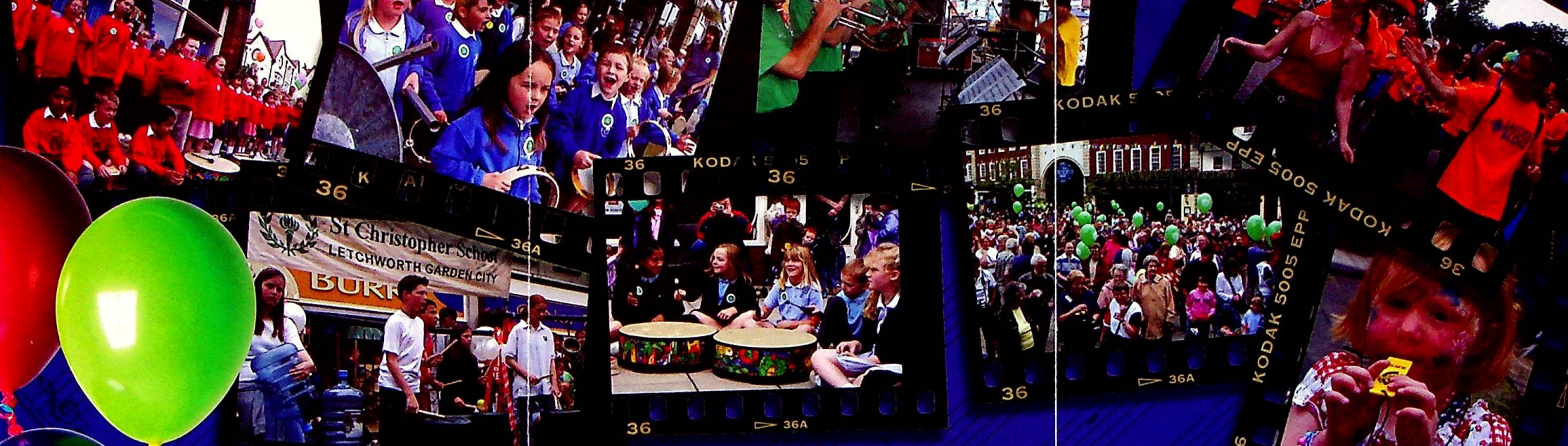
A hint for Jill? How to improve the footwork of her dancing class.

Item found by Isabel in her Scottish Dancing magazine.

Received from Lechworth Heritage
Committee after Christmas'



We were not listed among the participants.



“a real success for the town”

“a good community event, congratulations to all involved!”

“very well organised and great for trade... we were very busy”

“We would like to congratulate all at the Heritage Foundation... it was nice to see the town so full of people enjoying themselves”



Musicians of all ages and abilities took part. 500 local school children joined in. As a gift from **Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation**, the schools had been given a selection of percussion instruments plus a wooden frame to hang pots, pans and other bits and pieces on! **Funky junk!** Others played from street corners and from one of four special music stages. There was jazz, rock and folk music. There was the **Bedford Batteria Samba band**, the **'Fishing for Eels'** ceilidh band, the **Mad Nanny Folk club**, the **Letchworth Morris dancers**...the list goes on and on.

behind the scenes

Nick Skinner, Director of Music at **St.Christopher School**, Letchworth Garden City, directed the event. 'The project was based on two principles,' said Nick. 'The idea that everyone can join in and the idea that any sound is potentially interesting.'

the schools involved...

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Grange JMI School | St.Nicholas CE JMI School |
| Hillshot Infant School | School |
| Icknield Infant & Nursery School | Pixmore JMI School |
| Lannock JMI School | Radburn JMI School |
| Lordship Farm JMI School | Stonehill JMI School |
| Northfields Infant School | St. Christopher School |
| | St.Thomas More RC School |

All quotes volunteered by Letchworth Garden City retailers and event participants



At noon a special 'Centenary Fanfare' written by Letchworth Garden City composer **Tara Guram** was played from the main music stage beside WHSmith in Leys Square. **Jonathan Martin** and **David McVeigh**, two local 6th form students who are members of the **Letchworth Garden City Brass Band** played the music alongside three top professional brass players from the **English Sinfonia Orchestra**.



Artistic adviser for 'Make a Big Noise' was the exciting American born composer **Stephen Montague** whose music has been played by the world's finest soloists and ensembles.

Alastair Stewart, Education Co-ordinator for the **Letchworth Garden City Heritage Foundation**, obtained funding to give new musical instruments to the Letchworth Primary schools. Alastair also co-ordinated the schools' contributions.

"there was a real buzz... fantastic!"
"a great weekend, enjoyed by all"

"very well publicised, very well organised, very well attended. Excellent!"

"Brilliant. The live music and atmosphere around the town was great."

"a great variety of music... musicians and bands were excellent... it was hard not to start dancing!"

"very entertaining... brought a lot of people into the town"

"thoroughly enjoyed the event... a great success... absolutely fantastic!"

An event featuring the community for the community, to celebrate our wonderful, unique town in its Centenary year.



The Hertfordshire Music Service worked on the project led by **Rebecca Hughes**. She brought in a team of specialist teachers to work in schools alongside the regular staff to help prepare for the event. The **English Sinfonia Orchestra**, as well as playing the 'Centenary Fanfare', also worked in schools, thanks to additional funding from the **Eastern Orchestral Board**.



In a fabulous supporting project, the **Digswell Arts Trust Education Group**, led by **Ken Baddley**, used wood from the poplar trees felled at the old Kennedy Gardens - now known as **Broadway Gardens** - in Letchworth Garden City. They ran workshops in Letchworth primary schools recycling this wood into new simple musical instruments for the children to play on the day and to keep!

Even more! **Charlie Thomson** ran a special one-hour 'Allstar Accapella' workshop for singers. Everyone was invited. The group learnt two songs by ear then sang them while walking about the town.

A massive balloon launch took place at noon. In 'The Place', Letchworth's Arts Centre, a workshop showed how to make 'Big Noise Eddy' finger puppets. Who's 'Big Noise Eddy'? He's the figure on the posters!

thanks to

- **William Armitage**, of David's Bookshop
- **Ken Baddley**, of the Digswell Arts Trust
- **Stephen Batchelor**, of Shade of Blues
- **Trevor Batchelor**, chair of the 27 Club
- **Robin Campbell**, of Rhythms of the World
- **Michael Christy**, Music tutor
- **Ray Cordell**, Leys Avenue Music Stage Co-ordinator
- **Bill Cleghorn**, Secretary, Letchworth Garden City Brass Band
- **Deena Day**, Primary Advisor, Hertfordshire Music Service
- **Martin Dent**, Singer/songwriter
- **Tom Donovan**, and band, 'The Silence'
- **Lynda Drake**, Accordion/banjo/violin
- **Róisín Dunlop**, District Arts Officer, North Hertfordshire District Council
- **Tara Guram**, composer of 'Centenary Fanfare'
- **Alan Hewson**, Mad Nanny Folk Club
- **Hugh Harper**, Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Manager
- **Joseph, Toby, Dilly and Anthony Hartley**, musicians
- **Piers Hobson**, singer/songwriter
- **Rebecca Hughes**, Music Activities Co-ordinator, Hertfordshire Music Service
- **Dick Jones**, street theatre leader and with 'Fishing for Eels', street ceilidh
- **Helen King**, Music Tutor
- **Letchworth Garden City retailers**
- **Letchworth Morris Men** with 'Laughing Gravy', dancers with 5 piece band plus 'The World's Worst Percussionist' on tambourine, coconuts and bone:
 - **Roger S. Comley** (fool)
 - **Alan Creamer** (bagman)
 - **Steve Westwood** (squire)
- **Nicky Macer**, Junior Activities Adviser, Hertfordshire Music Service
- **Tracey Mack**, Bedford Samba Band
- **Ray Maple**, Hon. Secretary, Letchworth Sinfonia
- **Bob Mardon**, Rhythms of the World
- **Jonathan Martin**, fanfare trumpeter
- **Kevin McCalman**, Head of Music, Highfield School
- **David McVeigh**, fanfare trumpeter
- **Stephen Montague**, Make a Big Noise, Artistic Advisor
- **The Music Place**
- **Matt Nelson**, keyboards
- **The Place**, Letchworth Arts Centre
- **David Price**, Chairman Letchworth Garden City Band
- **Liz Reed**, musician
- **Chris Rees** with 'Risk'
- **Wallace Ruby**, Percussion Co-ordinator, Hertfordshire Music Service
- **Susannah Self**, Music tutor
- **John Stoddard**, Letchworth Free Church and Letchworth Rotary
- **Barbara Stanley**, Hon. Treasurer, Letchworth Sinfonia
- **Dave Strong and Andrea Soulsby**, The Letchworth & Baldock District School Show
- **Kate Thompson**, trumpet
- **Charlie Thomson**, Allstars Acapella Singing
- **Janice Trollope**, Secretary, Letchworth Chorale
- **Julia Turner**, Projects & Development, English Sinfonia Orchestra
- **Tim Welch**, Conductor, Letchworth Garden City Brass Band
- **Robin White**, Conductor, Letchworth Chorale

the fabulous teachers and parents of the following schools:

- **Grange JMI School**, led by Helen Phillips.
- **Hillshot Infant School**, led by Grace McDonald and Bridget Culverhouse.
- **Icknield Infant & Nursery School**, led by Ann Hodge and Jackie Egan.
- **Lanock JMI School**, led by Sally Bishop and Bernie Oates.
- **Lordship Farm JMI School**, led by Katrina Skinner and Iris McCormack.
- **Northfields Infant School**, led by Jane Garthwaite and Sarah Castio
- **St. Nicholas CE JMI School**, led by Susan Cole.
- **Pixmore JMI School**, led by Sheila Crossley.
- **Radburn JMI School**, led by Wendy Dellar
- **Stonehill JMI School**, led by Judith Howells and Rae Glen.
- **St. Christopher School**, led by Nick Skinner
- **St. Thomas More RC School**, led by Vicky Mariadas

and the bands....

- **Peter Amoah**
- **Bizarrrity**
- **Buffalo**
- **Aaron Clark**
- **Hamish Currie**
- **Gurdev Delay**
- **Doctor Rock**
- **Finishing Touch**
- **Fishing For Eels**
- **Fo'Cash**
- **Gekko**
- **Juan Gonzales**
- **Robin Harper**
- **Hitchin All-Star Accapella Choir**
- **Malcolm Hobbs**
- **Homebrew**
- **The Jazz Corporation**
- **Kamora**
- **The Keatons**
- **Bill Lennon**
- **Mganga**
- **Letchworth & Baldock District Scouts Gang Show**
- **Donna Mackay**
- **The Milburns**
- **Moon Tan Clan**
- **Nadeem**
- **Cheryl Norman**
- **Brian Peters**
- **Pulse**
- **The Chris Pyne Band**
- **Risk**
- **Sax Machine Quartet**
- **The Silence**
- **Splitting Rocks**
- **Spooky Slim**

all quotes volunteered by Letchworth Garden City retailers and event participants

The Rainmakers Day Course.
Feb. 7th, 2004, at Radwell Village Hall,
with **Maggie O'Regan.**
10.30 am - 4.30 pm

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 5. Yaman Yar | Armenia | |
| 2. Contradanza Siciliana | Italy | 6 couple set dance |
| 7. Tou Gambrou | Greece | |
| 3. Hassapiko | Greece | |
| 4. Oira Oira | Lithuania | couple dance |
| 5. Slobozhanskaya Polka | Russia | couple dance |

Plus a Chinese and a Romanian Dance, if time

1. **SYEN TU** China.

Rainmakers' Day Course.
Saturday, 7th February 2004.
10.00 a.m. ~ 4.30 p.m.

Radwell Village Hall. Tutor: Maggie O'Regan.

Last Saturday Maggie O'Regan came from London to teach a Day Course for the Rainmakers. The venue was Radwell Village Hall near Baldock. This small, pleasant hall with a slightly springy wooden floor proved to be just the right size to accommodate the number of people who came to dance. In the morning there were eighteen dancers plus the teacher and in the afternoon twenty dancers. Of these dancers, five were not Rainmakers. A lady had travelled from Birmingham, another from Cheshunt, one from Knebworth and, in the afternoon only, Martin Butler of Cloudburst Band and his wife, Helen arrived.

Maggie had prepared an excellent and varied assortment of dances, some lively, some gentle and (I am told) not too taxing. It is likely that most of them will stay in the club's repertoire.

The dancers had a very enjoyable day and they much appreciated the preparatory work that Maggie had put in and her clear way of teaching the dances.

At the end Peter thanked those who had helped to make the day a success particularly Julie, who organised refreshments and Maggie, the teacher.

Betty & Henry

Rainmakers Dates At 10 March 2004

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone number 01462 457791. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

<i>Saturday 13 March</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Sunday 4 April</i>	<i>SIFD dance, Cecil Sharp House</i>
<i>Friday 9 April</i>	<i>Good Friday - meeting as usual</i>
<i>Friday 30 April to Monday 3 May</i>	<i>Eastbourne Festival</i>
<i>Friday 7 May</i>	<i>Isabel's 80th</i>
<i>Saturday 8 May</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Saturday 15 May</i>	<i>Baldock Festival</i>
<i>Saturday 12 June</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Saturday 3 July</i>	<i>Letchworth Summer Fun Day</i>
<i>Saturday 10 July</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Friday 23 July</i>	<i>End of term party</i>
<i>Saturday 24 to Saturday 31 July</i>	<i>SIFD Swansea Summer School</i>
<i>Fridays 30 July, 6, 13, 20, 27 August</i>	<i>Garden or pub evenings – locations to be advised</i>
<i>Friday 3 September</i>	<i>First meeting of term</i>
<i>Saturday 11 September</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Friday? October – to be arranged</i>	<i>Anniversary Dance</i>
<i>Saturday 9 October</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Saturday 20 November</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
<i>Friday 17 December</i>	<i>End of term party</i>
<i>Fridays 24, 31 December</i>	<i>No meeting</i>

PLB 10.4.2004

Friday, April 10th 2004



Jill, Phil, and Dick
Birthday celebrations with the Rainmakers.

Birthday Celebrations!

Recently four members of Rainmakers reached birthdays of significant denominations. On the nearest Friday to each of these dates, Julie (now our Social Events Organiser) brought along a cake and a card which we all signed.

Roger celebrated his 40th birthday on April 7th. Julie made a Guinness cake for him and put one candle on it. During the evening Roger chose some of his favourite dances.

Dick was out of the country on his 60th birthday but he was at the club on the next day, April 10th. Julie made a passion fruit cake for Dick and put candles on it. This date is also the birthday of two more members, Jill and Phil. They did not disclose their ages but said they were celebrating their combined 113th birthdays. Someone joked that Phil was 100 and Jill 13! A lot of candles went onto their special cake but not 113. Dick, Jill and Phil also chose favourite dances for the programme. Martin Butler played "Happy Birthday" on his accordion for us.

Marking these events in this way has added a special jolly touch to two Rainmakers' club evenings.

Next we look forward to Isabel's 80th birthday on May 7th when she has invited all the club members to her party.

Friday, May 7th 2004.
Isabel's 80th Birthday Party.

People in the club were very surprised when Isabel told us that her 80th birthday was coming up shortly as she is one of the most active dancers in the Rainmakers. She decided that as May 7th, her birthday, was actually a club night she would make it her birthday party and booked the hall and band (Martin Butler and Friends) and Jill was asked to be M.C. All the Rainmakers were invited (not other friends as she did not want Jill to have to teach that night.) Isabel chose the programme from dances in the club's repertoire, over twenty-eight years, that are her particular favourites.



Pictures taken and given by Peter.

Isabel

Invites

The Rainmakers

to her

80th Birthday Party

on

Friday 7th May 2004

at

St Michael's Parish Hall

with

Jill as MC

and music provided by

Martin Butler & Friends

8.00 – 11pm

Please wear costume

Contributions of food and/or drink for
the buffet would be appreciated.

No presents please

Rainmakers enjoying Isabel's party.



There was a very festive atmosphere in the hall as almost everyone wore an international costume of some kind and "Happy Birthday" balloons were fixed to the walls.

It was lovely to dance to live music played by Martin Butler and his friends. The dances were well-known to members and soon everyone was on the floor. Martin sang to accompany one dance. Katka had been expected to sing a Czech song to entertain us but she had a bad cold and had to stay at home.

As we were dancing to live music Jill was able to organise a more complicated version of the Polonaise than we ^{have} usually attempted. This was much enjoyed particularly as everyone in the room was included.

Rainmakers always enjoy their refreshments and this night we partook of an especially elaborate spread. We were then asked to bring our chairs into a circle for Julie and Roy to give their version of "Isabel, This is your Life". Much research had gone into this. Some of the people who had supplied Julie and Roy with information on Isabel's early life in Scotland had slightly inaccurate memories (which Isabel instantly corrected) but for more recent anecdotes on Isabel's activities with Rainmakers, Roy had been able to delve into old club Scrapbooks. We were all interested to learn of Isabel's many talents.

Julie then presented Isabel with a bouquet of flowers and a funny book on Cats from the club. Isabel thanked us, cut her cake and blew out the candles. (8 and nought). We sang "Happy

“Birthday to You” before dancing all the rest of the dances on the programme.

When thanking Isabel for inviting the club members to her party Peter remarked that Isabel had only sat down for one dance in the whole evening and that was when she was actually eating her birthday cake. He hoped he would be able to keep dancing like that when he was eighty!

PROGRAMME

Isabel's 80th Birthday Party, 7th May. 2004.

Hashual

Maiezyt
Chassene

Shiri Li Kinneret

Marushka
Steirreger

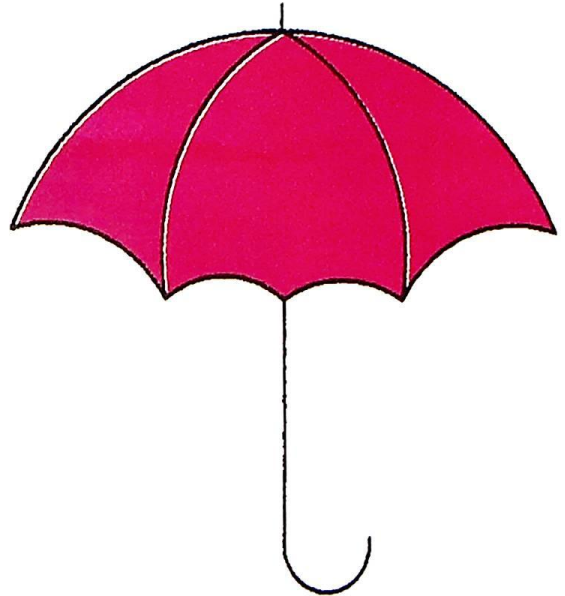
Dvazdi Trizdi

Chotis de la Frontera
Mellionen

Dar Gorani

Reiach Dudiam
Zabaljela Dunina Galovka

Erev Shabbat



Jota Mallorquina

Horehronsky Czardas

La Bourrée Pastourelle

●
- Polka Dot

A Gota

Joc in Patru

Levi Jackson's Rag

●
- Maya

Ada's Kuyawiak

Hora Femeilor

Maple Leaf Rag

Joc de Leagane

Vleegerd
Pirinska Pesen

El Corrido

Ludo Mlado

Jota Tapatia

Devushky Padruzhenky
Erev Ba

**The Polonaise will be danced just after
the interval.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO ISABEL!



Baldock Display 15th May 2004

In marked contrast to the proceeding couple of weeks, Saturday the 15th May dawned bright, clear, and DRY. I can only conclude that the Baldock Festival organising committee must have influence in some very high places.

Having parked in a quiet corner of Tesco's car park (which for some reason was unusually crowded for 10.15am) I made my way to the White Lion Public House in the High Street to join the other members of Rainmakers display team, consisting of :-

Belinda

Clare

Diana

Julie

Maria

Sheila

Graham

Richard

Roger

Although we were dressed in an assortment of international costume, the presents of nine Morris sides in their breeches baldricks & tat suits made us feel quite at home.

On the stroke of 10.30am (ish), a charismatic but unknown Morris Man stepped into the display area and initiated the proceedings by welcoming audience & dancers alike. He then invited Midnight Morris to be the first display spot. From then on the sound of stick, bell and clog filled the air.

Being eighth in the running order there was plenty of time to set up the Coomber with its battery and position the tape ready for our first spot, Bouree de la Chapalotte. Then as if by magic we had walked on, danced, and walked off. My only thought being "why did the display area have such a slope on it".

In company with two Morris teams we re-located to the paved area to one side of Tesco's main entrants where we alternated with the Morris to display Chestnuts, Kulsko Hora, The Mexican Hat Dance and Picking up Sticks. The few people who stopped to watch seemed to enjoy the whole affair.

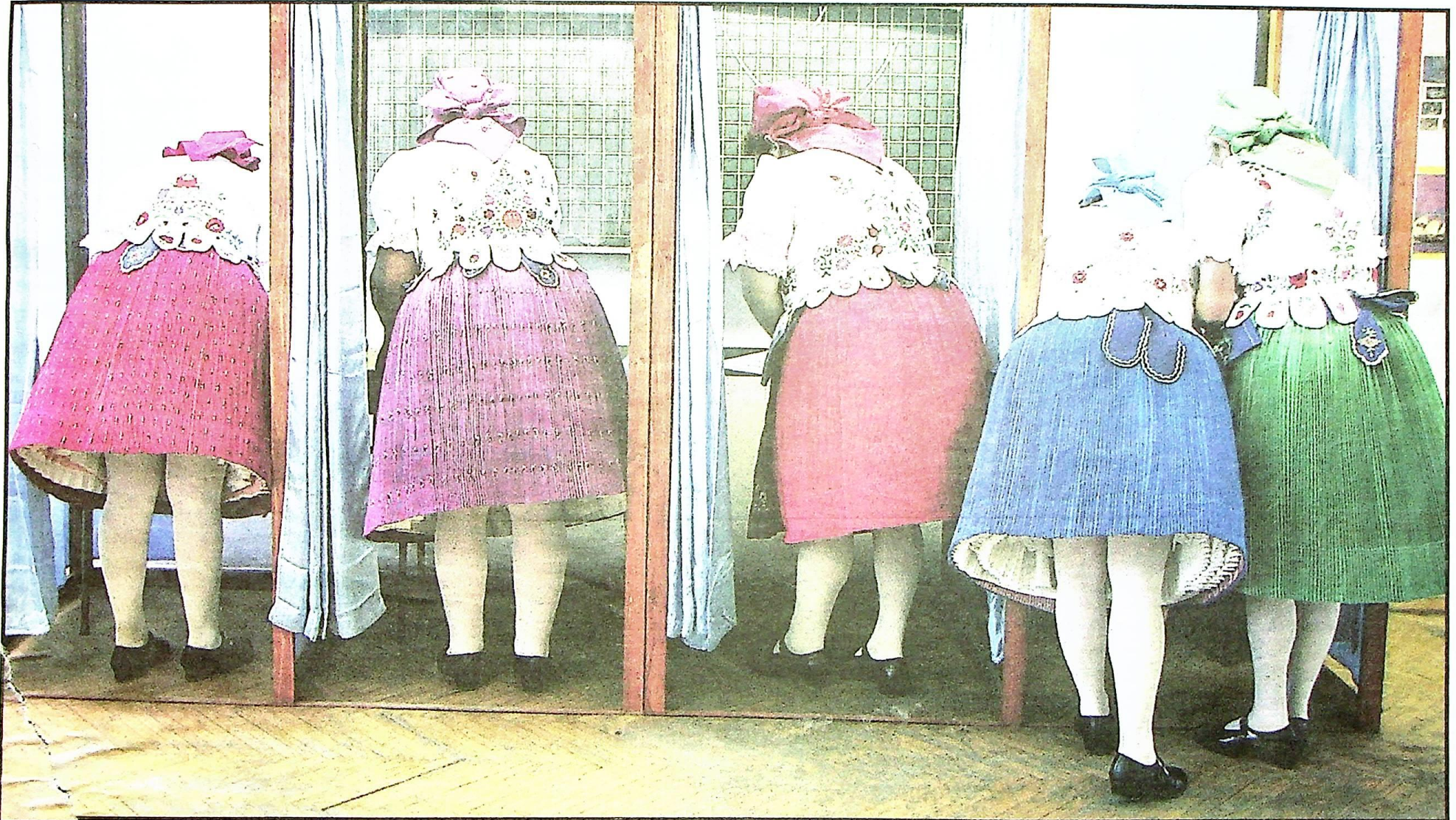
Then once again we were on the move back to the High Street's sloping display area for our midday to 1pm spot where we joined three different Morris sides and entertained a much expanded audience with Hasual and Kreuz Koenig thus concluding the mornings dance activities.

Having worked up a generous appetite, Rainmakers team decided to bypass the already overflowing town centre pubs and instead walked to the Engine, located at what proved to be the "quiet end" of Baldock. Where most of us ordered food from a perfectly adequate bar menu and took advantage of an almost deserted beer garden to the rear of the pub.

Having satisfied our hunger and thirst, we returned to the White Lion via a colourful array of high street stalls selling plants, crafts, brick-a-brack & much else. Enlisting the whole nine Rainmakers we opened our second medley of dances with Trekarlspolska, sadly after this item Diana & Clare had to leave our happy band for more pressing engagements. Nonetheless we continued to alternate with the other teams to display Hora Zemer, Bourtee Croisee and finally Eriv Ba. At which point one Morris man was heard to comment that it was refreshing to have such a graceful dance in a sea of raucous Morris.

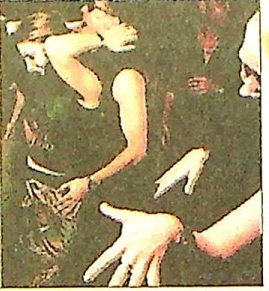
Thanks to everyone who supported the Baldock display.

Graham .



Hungaria: women in traditional costume cast their first votes in the EU yesterday at a polling station in Veresegyhaza, east of Budapest

Laszlo Balogh



Steps of tradition (clockwise from top): dancing at the Pilar celebration; Mercado Central; gourmet tapas; nightclubbing; Pilar cathedral and Ebro river; a Goya in the Museo de Zaragoza

Scandinavian Dancing.
Friday, 18th June 2004.

In June last year the club enjoyed an evening of Scandinavian dancing taught by Kerry Fletcher. Our committee decided that it is a good thing for members to concentrate on one country for a whole evening instead of the usual programme of various national dances we have on a Friday. This time Anne Leach from London was invited to be the tutor. She helps to run Skandia, a club held in London, (an offshoot of the S.I.F.D.) for the learning of Swedish dances. Caspar Cronk came too, as her partner, to demonstrate dances and to partner a Rainmaker lady, should there be a shortage of men for couple dances.

Anne taught six Swedish dances and one Danish dance.

They were:—

Langdans från Sollesien

Schottis

Polska från Åmot

"Allemans Marsj"

Engelskor

Mazurka

Tre Ting (Danish)

There were twenty people in the room - unfortunately fewer ladies than gentlemen. This mattered only for the couple dances especially as the turning dances e.g. Schottis and Polska, were too much for a few ladies so two gentlemen were partnerless.

However, everyone said they enjoyed the evening very much and hope it will happen again some-time in the future.

Saturday, July 3rd, 2004. 11.00-11.30 a.m.
Letchworth Fun Day.

Maria, Julie and Sheila arriving at Broadway
Gardens.

The team, by the fountain.
Note rain clouds gathering over The Rainmakers!

Celebrate summer in the heart of Letchworth Garden City



SUMMER ON
BROADWAY

Broadway
Gardens

SATURDAY
3 JULY 2004
10am - 8pm

Brought to you by



Plus! FABULOUS ITALIAN MARKET IN LEYS SQUARE

organised by the

Letchworth Garden City Town Centre Partnership

SUMMER ON BROADWAY

FEATURING:



GRAND FINAL OF



**STALLS • FOOD • LIVE MUSIC •
CHILDREN'S INFLATABLES • CLOWNS •
JUGGLERS • STREET ENTERTAINERS**

- 10am COOL SUMMER SOUNDS FROM THE DECKS OF SINGH SHADY
- 11am FOLK SET WITH TAB HUNTER AND BEN PALEY
- 12noon 'SEARCH FOR A STAR' SEMI-FINALS
- 1pm ST CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL PERFORM 'SGT PEPPERS LONELY HEARTS CLUB BAND'
- 2pm BRASS BAND MUSIC WITH THE LETCHWORTH GARDEN CITY BAND
- 3pm CLASSICS FROM KNIGHTS TEMPLAR SCHOOL
- 4pm 'SEARCH FOR A STAR' GRAND FINAL
- 4.30pm HIP HOP FROM LETCHWORTH'S VERY OWN FO' CASH
- 6pm SINGH SHADY
- 7pm KINGS OF QUEEN - THE ULTIMATE QUEEN TRIBUTE BAND

With assistance from:

Ernest Gardiner Day Hospital
Letchworth & Baldock Scouts
12th Letchworth Scouts, Cubs & Beavers
SPADS
Letchworth Velo Club
North Herts Road Runners
Stonehill School
Rotary Club of Great Britain
Garden House Hospice
Citizens Advice Bureau
Letchworth Tennis Club
Pix Pre School
Letchworth & District Guides
Furniturelink
The Place
Royal British Legion
Royal Naval Association
Westbury Over Sixties
The Settlement
Home Start North Herts
Letchworth Women's Institute
Herts & Middx Wildlife Trust
North Herts Road Runners
Letchworth Film Club
Yvonne Savage Club for the Visually Impaired
St Andrews Society
Rainmakers International Folk Dance
St Paul's Church
Motor Neurone Disease Society
Letchworth Christian Fellowship
Brooke Hospital for Animals

Demonstration in Letchworth, July 3rd, 11.00-11.30 am.

*Meet at Broadway Gardens at Fountain at 10.45. Parking tickets TBA
Costumes – red and black Basque – check with Maria for exact details*

Hora Hadera (all) (x4)

Neapolitan Tarantella Graham & Julie, Jill & Maria, Peter & Claire, Belinda & Sheila

Karamfil (just two verses)

Hava Nagila (x3) Jill, Maria, Belinda & Sheila (two facing two in lines)

Bourree de la Chapelotte Maria, Peter, Julie & Sheila, Graham, Claire

Hashual (all) (x3)

Kreuz Koenig Peter & Julie, Graham & Belinda

Ba Pardess (all) (a bit shorter than normal)

Tancuj Peter & Sheila, Jill & Maria, Graham & Belinda, Claire & Julie

*Walenki (join in)

Zemer Atik (pairs as Nea. Tar.)

Dorset Four Hand Reel Graham & Claire, Peter & Jill

*Ve David (join in)

*Devushky Padruzhenky (shorter than the tape please)

Rav Brachot (all)

*may not do these.



The musicians, Martin and Hazel, pose with the dancers.



Peter, Belinda, Julie and Graham dancing Kr~~o~~ßes K~~o~~enig.

Giving rather short notice, the organisers of Letchworth's Summer Fun Day asked the Rainmakers to give a display of their dances on Saturday, July 3rd. Eight members were available and willing to give up their usual Saturday morning ploys. The spot they were allocated proved to be too noisy from the Bouncy Castle's music so, nothing daunted, they moved further away and got on with the show.



A lively breeze sprang up and began to turn over the pages of the musician's music.

Fortunately two Rainmakers, Barry and Helen, had just turned up to watch the dancing. They were invaluable as they held down the music and turned pages when appropriate.

Quite soon rain began to fall. The show went on and ^{some} dancers, with Helen, held umbrellas over

the musicians. The Italian "Umbrella Dance" (Danza degli ~~Umbrelli~~) was not on the programme.

There were no large crowds of onlookers about but some people stayed to watch - others came and went.



Dancing Boursee de la Chapelotte.

July 3rd 2004

6 pages with photos in
Letchworth.

3-7-04



Martin protects his accordion.

The performers still look happy.

I am told that it was a good display.

The club is grateful to the people who represented us.

Photos taken and given by Peter and Jill.

Many thanks.



Friday, 23rd July.

End of Summer Term Party.

Unfortunately the date set for the Rainmakers' End of Summer Term Party co-incided with the date when most of our regular members set off on their holidays or had friends and relatives to stay. Consequently only twelve people appeared at the Parish Hall.

I am told that it was a very good evening, enjoyed by all present. Henry and I were on our way to Swansea to attend the S.I.F.D. Summer School.

Till had worked hard preparing a lovely programme. The next morning she and Peter set off early for Swansea. She had to arrive in good time as she was responsible for organising and M.C.-ing the first dance of the Summer School that evening.

What dedication and stamina!

End of Summer Term Party

Tzadik Katamar

Nikolos

Lublin Polka

Maple Leaf Rag

Scandinavian Maypole Dance

Kreuz Koenig

Syen Tu

Neapolitan Tarantella

Renningen

Dryanovska Racenitsa

Jota Mallorquin

Harimon

Jove Malo Mome

Ma Navu

Vleegerd

Hasapikos

Steiregger

Pomasko Sirto

Polska

A Gota

Sepastia Bar

Trekarls Polska

Simhat He Amal

Joc de Leagane

Stenka

Publicity

A new term begins.

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

A friendly club for all

No partner needed - come and try dances
from many countries
You would be very welcome

*Special evenings for beginners
and those new to folk dancing*

*Fridays 3, 10, 17, 24 September
2004*

We meet every Friday (apart from
Christmas and August)
8 – 10 pm, The Parish Hall, Broadway,
Letchworth

Contact 01462 457791

Rainmakers Dates (at 29 June 2004)

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone number 01462 457791. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

Evenings in September are particularly aimed at new or less experienced dancers. Come along and give international dancing a try – you would be very welcome.

Saturday 3 July	Letchworth Summer Fun Day
<i>Saturday 10 July</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
Friday 23 July	End of term party
<i>Saturday 24 to Saturday 31 July</i>	<i>SIFD Swansea Summer School</i>
Fridays 30 July, 6, 13, 20, 27 August	Garden or pub evenings – locations to be advised
Friday 3 September	First meeting of term. Evening for new or less experienced dancers
Friday 10 September	Evening for new or less experienced dancers
<i>Saturday 11 September</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
Friday 17 September	Evening for new or less experienced dancers
Friday 24 September	Evening for new or less experienced dancers
Friday 1 October	Anniversary Dance
<i>Saturday 9 October</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
Tuesday 12 October	Committee meeting
Friday 26 November	AGM
<i>Saturday 20 November</i>	<i>SIFD day course</i>
Friday 17 December	End of term party
Fridays 24, 31 December	No meeting

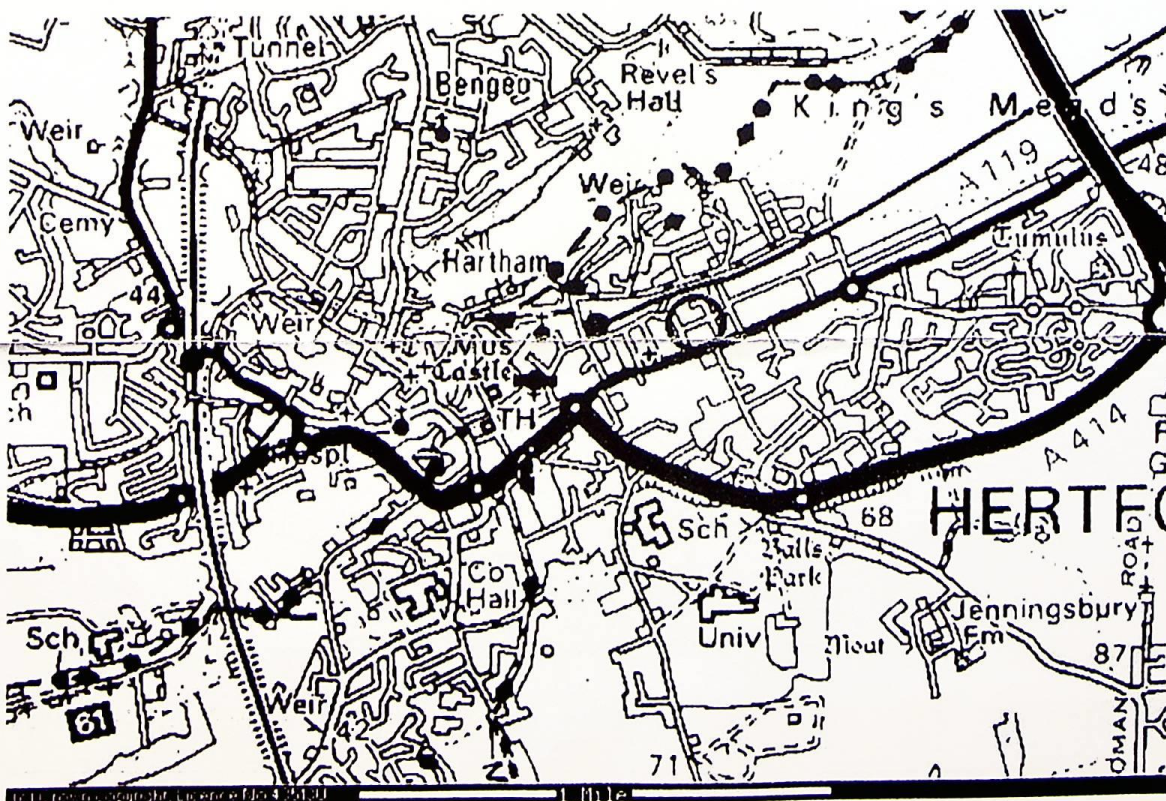
PLB 1.7.2004

Rainmakers Garden or Pub Evenings - Summer 2004

Rainmakers have been invited to the following garden or pub evenings. Evenings start at 7.30 pm and members are asked to bring a little something – food and/or drink to share. All evenings will be held, even if the weather is inclement and we cannot dance.

30 July	Sheila Leavy (caller Belinda) 8 Hallmead, Letchworth, Herts, SG6 4BJ. 01462 636038
6 August	Peter and Jill Bransby (caller Jill) Red Gables, Benslow Path, The Avenue, Hitchin, Herts SG4 9RH. 01462 457791
13 August	No invitation
20 August	Julie Brix (caller Richard) 3 Talbot Street, Hertford, SG13 7BX (1 minute from Hertford East railway station by car). 01992-503078 Julie invites us to her garden from 7 pm. We will dance at the Great Eastern Tavern, Railway Place (opposite Julie's house across the corner) from 7.30 pm, before returning to Julie's after dancing. Contributions to a vegetarian buffet much appreciated. Parking at the mini estate opposite the pub or on yellow lines (no restrictions after 6 pm).
27 August	Adrian and Sue Barter (caller Graham) <i>Cancelled. Adrian in hospital.</i> 5 Langbridge Close, Hitchin, Herts, SG4 9EL. 01462 459349

Map for Julie (circle marks her house)



Garden Evenings

2004.

When the club has officially closed at the end of July members often invite us to dance in their gardens or at a nearby pub.

30th July: Sheila Leavy. Letchworth.
Belinda - caller.

6th August. Peter and Jill Bransky.
Callers - Jill. Hitchin.
Only 7 people attended. The others had gone on holiday.

20th August. Julie Brix. Hertford.
Pub landlord changed his mind so a dozen or so people danced in Julie's house.
27th August. Adrian Baxter - Hitchin
Caller - Graham.

This evening was cancelled as Adrian was in hospital, seriously ill.

We thank all the hosts and callers for their invitations. Those attending enjoyed themselves very much and appreciated the trouble taken.

Rainmakers 28th Anniversary Dance,
Friday, 1st October, 2004.
Music by *Cloudburst*



The Rainmakers celebrated the club's 28th anniversary by holding a dance at St. Michael's Parish Hall, Letchworth. The music was provided by Cloudburst Band who played splendidly.

About thirty-five people came along, which is a goodly number for Rainmakers on a Friday evening. These included a few visitors from

the S.I.F.D. - namely Fiona Howarth and her partner, Roy Clark, John Walford and Pam and Derek Trowell. We were very pleased to see them but missed the presence of Janet (Woolbar) and her husband, Frank who were away but are loyal supporters of the Rainmakers.

As usual Jill had put together a programme of popular dances from a list of members' requests plus others of varying difficulty. The scene looked very festive as most dancers wore an international costume.

During the evening we paused for refreshment brought along by club members and organised by Julie. Maria had made a particularly delicious Anniversary Cake.

Whilst socialising and chatting over the food we took the opportunity to approach Adrian to say how pleased we were to see him there after his recent stay in hospital and hoped that progress towards a full recovery would proceed rapidly.

Dorset Four Hand Reel was one of the last dances of the evening. Everyone was up and the band, whilst moving back their chairs to give us more room, decided to play and dance at the same time. It was amazing! The claps of appreciation were really loud and set the seal on a very enjoyable evening.

Oh! I have forgotten to mention how pleased we were to see Patti and Mark back with us after Patti's recent operation.

Rainmakers' 28th Anniversary Dance.

October 1st 2004.

Programme.

Tzadik Katamat
Heine Ma Tov

Moi Muzenka
La Vesi La Vesov

Borrowdale Exchange
Steiregger.

Syen Tu

Cravatte de Pont Aven

Zabaljela Dunina Galovka

Joc in Patru

Gort Met Stroop

Sepastia Bar

Boursee de La Chapelotte

Castro Almaine

Mellionen

Hasapikos.

Contradanza Sicilliana

Maya
Hora Hadera

Jota Mallorquina

Ludo Mlado

Kreuz Köenig
Pitinska Pesen

Bourrée de la Brande d'Ardenes

Renningen
Shiru Hashir

Devushky Padruzhenky

Maiezyt
Neopolitan Tarantella

Pomasko Sixto

Bourree Tournante des Grande Poteries.

Dorset Four Hand Reel

Fodelsdagwals
Ba Pardess.

Rainmakers Calendar (at 12 October 2004)

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, St Michael's Church, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone number 01462 457791. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

<i>Saturday/Sunday 23/4 October</i>	<i>Dance Around the World, Cecil Sharp House</i>
<i>Saturday 20 November</i>	<i>SIFD day course – Greek</i>
<i>Saturday 20 November</i>	<i>SIFD AGM</i>
<i>Friday 26 November</i>	<i>AGM</i>
<i>Friday 17 December</i>	<i>End of term party</i>
<i>Fridays 24, 31 December</i>	<i>No meeting</i>
<i>Tuesday 28 December</i>	<i>Roy and Sandra's party</i>
<i>Friday 7 January 2005</i>	<i>First meeting of term</i>
<i>Fridays 14, 21 January</i>	<i>Beginners' evenings</i>
<i>Saturday to be arranged</i>	<i>Day course</i>
<i>Good Friday 25 March</i>	<i>Meeting as usual, if demand</i>
<i>Friday to be arranged</i>	<i>Evening workshop</i>
<i>Friday 22 or 29 July</i>	<i>End of term party</i>
<i>Fridays 5, 12, 19, 26 August</i>	<i>Garden evenings</i>
<i>Friday 2 September</i>	<i>First meeting of term</i>
<i>Friday 16 September</i>	<i>First beginners evening</i>
<i>Saturday ?September</i>	<i>Albert Hall demonstration</i>
<i>Friday 21 October</i>	<i>Anniversary dance</i>
<i>Friday 25 November</i>	<i>AGM</i>
<i>Friday 16 December</i>	<i>Christmas party</i>
<i>Friday 23 December</i>	<i>Meeting if demand</i>

Note: SIFD Dances at Cecil Sharp House – normally first Sunday

PLB 12.10.2004



ADRIAN BARTER

28th January 1940 to 27th October 2004

**THE VALE CREMATORIUM
LUTON**

**Thursday 4th November 2004
At 1:00 pm**

HOT CHOCOLATE
I'll put you together again

HYMN:

DEAR Lord and Father of mankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,
Beside the Syrian sea,
The gracious calling of the Lord,
Let us, like them, without a word
Rise up and follow thee.

Drop thy still dews of quietness,
Till all our strivings cease;
Take from our souls the strain and stress,
And let our ordered lives confess
The beauty of thy peace.

Breathe through the heats of our desire
Thy coolness and thy balm;
Let sense be dumb, let flesh retire;
Speak through the earthquake, wind and fire,
O still small voice of calm!



HYMN:

ALL things bright and beautiful,
All creatures great and small,
All things wise and wonderful,
The Lord God made them all.

Each little flower that opens,
Each little bird that sings,
He made their colours,
He made their tiny wings.

All things bright, etc.

The purple-headed mountains,
The river running by,
The sunset, and the morning,
That brightens up the sky.

All things bright, etc.

The cold wind in the winter,
The pleasant summer sun,
The ripe fruits in the garden
He made them every one.

All things bright, etc.

The tall trees in the greenwood,
The meadows where we play,
The rushes by the water
We gather every day.

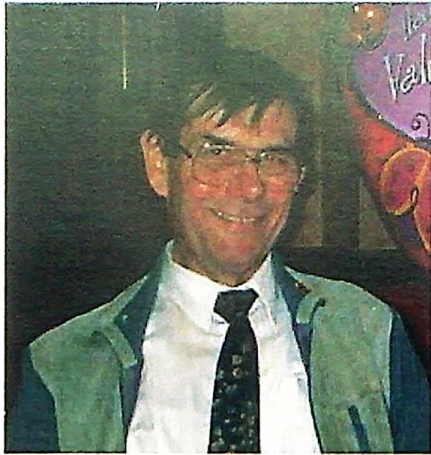
All things bright, etc.

He gave us eyes to see them,
And lips that we might tell
How great is God Almighty,
Who has made all things well.

All things bright, etc.

THE YETTIES

Darren and his family thank you for attending
and would like everyone to join them back
at 5 Langbridge Close, Hitchin.



Donations if desired for the Alzheimer Society
may be sent
c/o
Chenery Funeral Services Ltd
44 Bedford Road
Hitchin Herts
SG5 2TY

Adrian Baxter.
Died October 27th 2004.

The members of Rainmakers are very sad indeed to hear of the death of Adrian Baxter. Adrian was the most loyal, regular, hard-working member a club could have for over twenty years. He loved his dancing and was always one of the first to put his name down for a display, along with his wife, Sue. We were shocked to see the deterioration in his health during the past year but he rarely missed a club night. He was even at our Anniversary Dance on October 1st, with the help of friends. Though unable to dance he insisted on washing up as his contribution to the party.

The atmosphere in the packed chapel of the crematorium on Thursday, November 4th was intense - almost electric. Besides his family there were large numbers of former colleagues and friends from the Staplers and Rainmakers dancing clubs, the Letchworth Hospice for whom he worked so hard, neighbours and others who will miss him very much.

Roy Bowtell, a founder member of Rainmakers gave the eulogy. I thought that he captured the personality of Adrian so well that I have asked his permission to quote the address verbatim.

Adrian.

"How often have we heard it said "It's as safe as the Bank of England."
Well, that, in my view epitomises Adrian.
Perhaps it was because he was trained

initially in a bank. But, whatever the cause, if you needed care and support in organising an event, whatever it be. — Preparing for the Hitchin Gathering, getting the wiring right or making sure the car was running smoothly before the long haul down to France with Sue, making sure the dance hall was nicely decorated, providing those thirst quenching bowls of punch supported by the tables he had so securely erected — these were the menial jobs.

Then, as well as the menial jobs there were the dance display rehearsals — yes, the stuff the public paid to see. He was in there, not just a background man but part and parcel of the main theme. How the audience would laugh at just the two of us enacting the comical Ox Dans.

But the audience were not there to observe how Adrian, during all those practises, made sure the steps were correct. Everything he did was sound.

His support for Sue never waned as her health deteriorated. He would partner Sue, still encouraging her to dance when a lesser man would have given up. He was her Rock.

His patience was without equal. Even with all his trials he would still be offering lifts and generally working his socks off for others.

He was an ever caring guy who always did the Christian thing and put himself last. If you were ever looking for someone reliable, he would be someone there if you were in trouble.

A person efficiently exacting but

certainly not boring, with a great sense of fun - his name would be Adrian Baxter."

Whilst we were remembering Adrian at the funeral and happier times we also thought of his wife, Sue, suffering from severe Alzheimers Disease, for whom he cared faithfully, night and day until he became ill himself.

We had entered the chapel to the music of a modern "Pop" band called Hot Chocolate but we left to the sound of the Yetties (a real favourite of Adrians, a folk band from the West Country) singing Widecombe Fair, followed by them playing a lively jig tune. It brought a lump to the throat and tears to the eyes.

The ^{Fri}day after he died, Richard was M.C. at the club as Peter and Jill were away. He suggested members stood for a minute in silence in memory of Adrian. After this Graham and Mark danced the Ox Duns, one of Adrian's party pieces.

Rainmakers
International Folk Dance Group

AGM - Friday 26 November 2003 at 8 pm at the Parish Hall, St Michaels Church,
Letchworth

Agenda

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last AGM held on 28 November 2003
 - a. Accuracy
 - b. Matters arising
 - i. Min 3.1 – Targeting young people.
 - ii. Min 3.1 – *Rhythms of the World*
 - iii. Min 8.1 – Shared evenings
4. Chairman's report including summary of the year
5. Treasurer's report
6. Agree annual and weekly subscriptions
7. Appointment of Independent Examiner
8. Election of new Committee
9. AOB

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME

<u>2002/2003</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>		<u>2003/2004</u>
1041.30	Weekly subscriptions (1)	876.20	
57.50	Friday workshop (2)	76.00	
91.70	Collection for presents etc	41.10	
	Donation (Isabel - hall for party)	27.00	
			1020.30

	<u>EVENTS</u>		
104.00	Anniversary dance	140.00	
91.35	Day course	126.65	
59.66	Donations (3)	5.00	
100.00	Berden Garden Fete	-	271.65

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
123.00	Annual subscriptions (4)	93.00	
2.31	Interest	1.40	
			94.40

-----			-----
1670.82			1386.35

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 August 2004

EXPENDITURE

<u>2002/2003</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>		<u>2003/2004</u>
786.00	Hire of Hall	855.00	
21.52	Squash	22.91	
50.00	Caller's etc expenses	40.00	
14.50	Slipstop	-	
7.58	Miscellaneous catering expenses	-	
7.00	Set and Turn a Single	9.00	
-	Adverts	30.00	
1.50	Fans and baskets	-	
17.50	Keys	-	
138.20	Flowers, presents and cards	86.55	
7.94	Miscellaneous	9.77	1053.23

	<u>EVENTS</u>		
50.00	Anniversary dance	70.00	
48.03	Day course	73.64	
-	Napkins and plates	-	
			143.64

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
-	SIFD affiliation fee (5)	-	
66.62	Insurance (5)	87.96	
8.91	Postage	16.07	
2.00	Phone	3.00	
24.00	Stationery etc.	22.24	
8.05	Exhibition	-	
3.00	Date sheets (6)	-	
1.79	Scrapbook	1.79	131.06

	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>		
-	New Coomber, case and CD's	-	509.09

-----			-----
1264.14			1837.02
406.68	Excess of income over expenditure		(450.67)
-----			-----
1670.82			1386.35

Notes attaching to and forming part of the accounts

1. 42 weeks with an average attendance of just over 16, down by 2.5 per week
2. 19 people attended.
3. Donations from Jill for use of equipment.
4. 31 members.
5. As an Associated Club of SIFD we no longer pay an annual subscription or Public Liability insurance, saving us £48.30.
6. This year's cost is included in with the stationery etc.

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 21st 2004.

2002/2003

2003/2004

1670.82	Income	1386.35
1264.14	Net Expenditure	1837.02
-----		-----
406.68	Excess of income over expenditure	(450.67)
1159.07	Balance brought forward	1565.75
-----		-----
1565.75	Balance carried forward	1115.08
-----		-----

57.80	Cash in hand	59.76
1507.95	Bank	1055.32
-----		-----
1565.75		1115.08
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance) (see note 7)

329.95	Balance brought forward	586.93
256.98	Events Profit	128.01
-----		-----
586.93		714.94
-	Purchases	509.09
-----		-----
586.93	Balance carried forward	205.85
-----		-----

1565.75	Balance	1115.08
586.93	Equipment Fund	205.85
-----		-----
978.82	Working Capital	909.23
-----		-----

Rainmakers

Minutes of the AGM held at 8.05pm on 28 November 2003 at the Parish Hall, Letchworth

1	<p>Welcome In the absence of an elected Chairman, the Committee had invited Roger to chair the meeting.</p> <p>Roger welcomed those attending and declared that a quorum was present.</p>	
2	<p>Attendance and apologies Those present (18 members and 1 guest) recorded their names on a sheet circulated for the purpose. Apologies had been received from Janet, Katka, Dick, Diana, Mark and Patti.</p>	
3	<p>Minutes and matters arising</p>	
3.1	<p>AGM 1 November 2002</p> <p><i>Accuracy</i> With the correction of 'Curlew' in Para 5, the minutes were accepted as a true record.</p> <p><i>Matters arising</i> Min 3.1 Equipment. A new Coomber had been purchased but, given our healthy financial position, it had not been thought worthwhile applying for a grant.</p> <p>Min 3.1 Workshops. A day course (Janet Woolbar) had been organised, together with a Friday evening led by Kerry Fletcher. This number of workshops was thought about right.</p> <p>Min 3.1 SIFD constitution. Richard had liaised with the SIFD Committee and they were now bringing proposals to change the SIFD constitution to the AGM in December. Richard was content with the changes proposed. We now received copies of SIFD News automatically</p> <p>Min 9.2 Demonstrations. We had demonstrated at two old peoples' homes (St Andrews, Reynolds) and at Berden and Letchworth. No action had been taken on targeting younger people – carried forward to new Committee. There were mixed feelings about the practicality and desirability of demonstrating at the next <i>Rhythms of the World</i> – carried forward to new Committee</p> <p>Min 9.3 Letchworth Centenary. We had exhibited at The Parish Church on the day of the opening of the Broadway Gardens and had demonstrated at <i>Make a Big Noise for Letchworth</i>. The response from the Town Twinning group had been disappointing, with no dance related activities organised, and nothing came of the various contacts.</p> <p>Min 9.4 Irish Set Dance. The group had ceased to exist, and the final balance of funds had been transferred to Rainmakers.</p> <p>There were no other matters arising.</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p>
4	<p>Secretary's report</p>	
4.1	<p>Report on year Betty gave a report on the year's activities, a copy of which is available, and which was received with acclamation.</p>	
4.2	<p>Thanks Roger thanked the many people who had helped the club over the year, including Jill and other M/Cs, Betty, Maria, Graham, Adrian, Peter, Richard, and all the Committee, as well as all the many other members who had helped.</p>	
5	<p>Treasurer's report Richard introduced the accounts, which showed a surplus of income over expenditure of £406.68. The overall financial position was more than satisfactory, and no change in annual or weekly fees was thought necessary. Following a proposal from Roger, seconded by Adrian, the accounts were accepted unanimously.</p>	
6	<p>Appointment of Independent Examiner Richard proposed, and Adrian seconded, that Bill Thorne was appointed for a further year,</p>	

	and this was approved unanimously. Jill asked that a vote of thanks be conveyed to Bill	Richard
7	<p>Election of new Committee Roger reported that nominations, properly seconded, had been received as follows: Chairman Peter, Treasurer Richard, Committee: Adrian, Belinda, Julie, Katka and Roger. He invited further nominations, but none were forthcoming.</p> <p>Richard proposed, and Roger seconded, that all those nominated should be elected <i>en bloc</i>, and that the Committee should appoint one or more of its members to carry out the functions of Secretary. The motion was approved unanimously.</p>	
8	Any other business	
8.1	<p>Shared evening Jill proposed that we should run an evening, suggested as 9 January, where different callers could each lead one or more dances. This was agreed.</p>	Jill
8.2	<p>Recording of CDs Graham enquired about progress in preparing club CDs. It was reported that Roger had already re-recorded a substantial proportion of the dances done at the club, and was continuing to complete the rest. Graham proposed a vote of thanks to Roger for his hard work, which was enthusiastically endorsed by members.</p>	
8.3	<p>Equipment Henry asked how callers had found the new Coomber. It was confirmed that the equipment was easy to operate and seemed robust. The power was adequate so long as CDs were recorded appropriately.</p>	
8.4	<p>Recruitment Peter invited ideas as to how we could recruit new members.</p>	
8.5	<p>Fees Richard declared that, in accordance with past practice, no fees would be charged that evening.</p>	
8.6	<p>Thanks Richard thanked Roger for chairing the meeting, on behalf of those present.</p>	
9	<p>Closure There being no other business, Roger closed the meeting at 8.50 pm.</p>	

PLB
29 November 2003

Election of Officers (Continued)

At this point Graham read out the list of nominations for committee (See Para 13.2) and asked if there were any further nominations from the floor. There were none

Graham asked if there were any objection to electing new committee “on block”. There were no objections.

Graham offered the new committee for election, proposed by Phil Trivedi and Seconded by Dick Hensman. There were no objections or abstentions.

10.2	Office	Nomination	Proposed	Seconded
	Chairman	*	*	*
	Secretary	Peter Bransby	Julie Brix	Sheila Leavy
	Treasurer	Richard Thom	Isabel Lamont	Maria Kerr
	Members	Adrian Barter	Richard Thom	Isabel Lamont
		Katka Kessler	Claire Steely	Alan Trangmar
		Roger Lowes	Maria Kerr	Richard Thom

10.3 To account for the lack of a Chairman the following actions were agreed.

- a) At the earliest opportunity, new committee would discuss a possible amendment to the constitution in order to expand the number of “nominated signatories”. Refer – Constitution Paragraph 6d
- b) When item a) had been addressed and agreed, new committee would call an EGM to propose the amendment.
- c) For committee meetings a Chairman would be elected on the evening.
- d) A possible reduction in club activities to account for the “reduced” committee.

Referring to the new bank mandate, Richard wished to minute that he and Peter would be shown as the signatories,

11 Any Other Business

11.1 Christmas Meetings

In view of the relatively low attendance at the AGM it was agreed to defer a decision regarding a club meeting on Friday 28th December until new committee could take a more representative “straw poll” of members.

11.2 Irish Set Dance Workshops

Jill wished to minute the fact that the Monthly Irish Dance Workshops would continue after Christmas and that dates would be publicised in the normal way.

11.3 SIFD Matters

Jill wished to point out that Rainmakers change of status in the SIFD from Affiliated to Associated means that not only does the annual fee payable to the SIFD reduce but also the number of “free” teachers drops from two to one. New committee may wish to bear this in mind when arranging their programme of workshops. Being an Associated club also means that Rainmakers is now covered by the SIFD Public Liability insurance free of charge.

Any Other Business (Continued)

11.4 More thanks

a) Jill wished to minute a further vote of thanks to committee for their work during the year making special mention of Richard as Treasurer and Sheila as Secretary.

Betty wished to minute a vote of thanks to everyone who had written items for the scrapbook and/or donated photographs.

11.5 Christmas Party

Richard Thom proposed the Christmas party date be changed from 21st December to the 14th December, citing Jill's inability to attend on the 21st as his reason for making the proposal. After a short discussion, a "show of hands" indicated the majority of members to be agreeable to the change. New committee to action.

There being no other business Graham thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting at 9.42pm.

Friday, 26th November 2004

Rainmakers' Annual General Meeting.

The Parish Hall, St. Michael's Church, Letchworth.

1. The meeting opened at 8.05 p.m. with the Chairman, Peter Bransky, welcoming the 16 members present.
2. Apologies for absence were received.
3. The Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 28th November 2003 had been circulated.

Matters Arising

- (a) It was decided by the Committee that nothing should be done to specifically target young people. Every dancing club has this problem - the young do not wish to join dancing clubs even if some enjoy dancing of various kinds e.g. salsa.
 - (b) The club did not wish to participate in Hitchin's "Rhythms of the World" day.
 - (c) Shared evenings were a good idea in principle. They will be tried. They might encourage novice callers.
4. The Chairman, Peter, made a few remarks on the club's year, noting that it had been a difficult and sad one in several ways with ^{the} serious illness of some club members and the death of Adrian Baster.

He thanked Jill, the Committee, and all who performed various tasks for the club "To keep the show on the road".

He then handed over to Betty who gave a summary of the Rainmakers' year.

5. The Treasurer, Richard, presented his Balance Sheet. He said that though it showed a loss we had bought a Coomber player, a case for it and a C.D. case. We still have money in hand.

Friday evenings are making a loss as attendance has been down and costs going up. Insurance has been cut by 40% for this year.

6. Agree annual and weekly subscriptions.

The annual subscription stays the same -
£3 per person.

The weekly subscription to go up to £1-50 from next week.

(Note:- Hall hire is £9 an hour and likely to be going up. We must keep an eye out for other hall charges.)

* Appointment of Independent Examiner.

Bill Thorne is willing to be the examiner of accounts again. He has been thanked.

8. Election of new committee.

Chairman :- Peter Bransky

Secretary :-

Treasurer :- Richard Thom

Committee :- Julie Brix

Belinda Gee

Roger Lowes

9. Any Other Business.

a) Roy Clark, of the S.I.F.D. had asked if he could bring Cliff Beck (ex S.I.F.D. Band) to the club to play his accordion on a Friday club night.

We would be pleased to see him but warn him that there might be a small attendance.

(b) Recruitment, the biggest issue facing the club. Beginners Evenings were advertised in the Letchworth Arts and Leisure literature. Eight new people appeared. Three stayed for more than one evening.

Other suggestions were made :-

West^{on} Clog Dancing Group had been invited to our Christmas Party.

Publicity on Website,

Approach other dancing clubs with leaflets about Rainmakers e.g. Scottish, Salsa, English

Town and Around in the Comet gives free publicity.

Offer to run an evening for other clubs.

(c) Thanks were made to Roger for editing tapes onto CDs for the club - a huge task.

(d) A Bereavement card was sent to Darren Baster on behalf of Rainmakers.

(e) A donation of £50 was sent to the Alzheimer's Society from a collection at the club and at Adrian's funeral.

The meeting closed at 9.00 p.m.

MADEIRA



Funchal

Card from friends on holiday in Madeira.

Friday, December 3rd. 2004.
Nostalgia Evening.

Roy Clarke (of London S.I.F.D.) brought his friend Cliff Beck with Cliff's wife Anne, to Rainmakers by arrangement with Jill and Peter who hosted them. Cliff used to play his accordion in the S.I.F.D. Band some years ago and had said he would like to play for dancing again.

His programme of dances were of those the Rainmakers used to dance in the 1970's so it became a nostalgia evening for our long standing members though of course they were new ones to others.

These are some of the dances we did to Cliff's playing:—

Hoi Harmonica
Mayim Mayim
Cherkassia Kefula
Karapyet
Kreuz Polka
Steiregger
Shiboleh Basedeh
Hammersmiths
Tançuj
Fyrtur
Haake Toone
Kleiner Schottische

The Rainmakers' Year. October 2003 to November
2004.

It is with a heavy heart that I write this account of the main events of the past year with the Rainmakers. A few days ago a dozen or so club members attended the funeral of Adrian Barter, a long standing, extremely loyal club member. Not only was Adrian a friend to us all but also a hard working committee member who loved his dancing. I have written more about Adrian in the Scrapbook. He will be greatly missed.

Infirmities, serious illness of members and injuries to ~~some~~ members of some Rainmakers' families have bedevilled the club this year. Every week it seemed that Peter had to say, at the end of the notices "And this is the latest report on our invalids".

No wonder that numbers have been down on Friday evenings of late.

On a happy note, the new Coomber, first used at the Anniversary Dance in October 2003, has behaved itself well and proved convenient to use by Jill and others who lead Rainmaker club nights.

The dates of Anniversary Dances and Annual General Meetings are moveable feasts causing the reports of 2003's events to overlap slightly with those of 2004.

Our last A.G.M. was held on Friday, 28th November 2003 when it was reported that the club was in a good financial position and we had more committee members than for

several years, though still no official Chairman. (The committee members took turns to chair meetings.)

On Sunday, December 7th 2003 Jill organised and was M.C. at the S.I.F.D.'s Christmas Dance held at Cecil Sharp House, London.

Party time arrived on Friday, December 19th. Jill and the committee had devised a suitably jolly programme of requested dances, a monologue, songs and two games. Julie had collected photographs of club members when young children. It proved to be very difficult to guess who they were. Louise was the winner by recognising four out of nine babies. There was much laughter and comment!

Graham recited an amusing monologue about Magic Mittens. There was double reason to applaud him warmly as this item had been missed out of the Anniversary Dance programme.

After more dancing Julie organised a team quiz with questions about countries, including their dances.

It was very nice to have Katka back at the club after all her injuries and infirmities. She sang two Czech songs for us really beautifully. The party finished with the whole company, about thirty of us, dancing Mombas with candles.

On Saturday, 7th February 2004, Maggie O'Regan came to Radwell Village Hall to teach a Day Course for us. Twenty people, including a few visitors enjoyed a varied, lively programme of seven dances.

Around April 10th 2004 four members reached birthdays of significant denominations. They were Jill, Phil, Roger and Dick. Julie made a

special cake for each of them, Martin played "Happy Birthday" on his accordion and each celebrant chose her / his favourite dances for the programme that evening.

On Friday, 7th May, Isabel celebrated her eightieth birthday by inviting all Rainmakers to her party in St. Michael's Hall. Cloudburst Band played the music for her favourite dances, Julie and Roy then gave us their version of "Isabel, this is your life". Much research had gone into this. There were some inaccuracies but we were interested to learn of Isabel's many talents. Peter spoke for us all when he thanked her for the party and said that he hoped he would be able to keep dancing like her when he is eighty.

Graham organised a team of dancers to give a display at Baldock's Street Festival on Saturday, 15th May at 10.15 a.m. Fortunately the weather was dry and bright after a very wet fortnight. It must have been very exhausting for the Rainmakers as they gave shows all day interspersed with displays by nine different Morris sides and coping with a sloping display area.

On Friday, 18th June, the whole evening was given to learning Scandinavian dances. Anne Leach came from London to be the tutor. Caspar Cronk came too, not only to partner Anne but to dance with a Rainmaker lady should there be a shortage of men for couple dances. There were twenty people in the room - more gentlemen than ladies so Caspar found himself dancing as a lady. Most people enjoyed the

^{workshop}
 very much though some found all the turning in the Schottis and Polska too tiring.

Giving rather short notice the organisers of Letchworth's Summer Fun Day on Saturday July 3rd, asked the Rainmakers to give a display of their dances. Eight dancers gave up their usual Saturday morning ploys, together with Martin and Hazel as musicians and went along to the Broadway Gardens. It was very windy and quite soon rain began to fall but the show went on. What a blessing that Barry and Helen had just turned up to watch the dancing. They were invaluable for holding down the music and holding umbrellas over the musicians!

Friday, 2 3rd of July was the date of the club's End of Summer Term party. Unfortunately it also seemed to be the date when many members set off on their Summer holidays or were on their way to the S.I.F.D. Summer School in Swansea. Only twelve people appeared at the Parish Hall. Jill had worked hard preparing a lovely programme so they had a very good evening. Jill and Peter set off early for Swansea the next morning as Jill was responsible for organising the first dance of the Summer School.

As usual the club did not close completely in August. Three Garden Evenings took place at Sheila's, Jill and Peter's and Julie's homes. These were much enjoyed.

A new term began on 3rd September 2004.

The first four meetings were designated special evenings for beginners and those new to international folk dancing. A few new people responded to Peter's publicity. I hope they are still with us.

On Friday October 1st our twenty-eighth Anniversary Dance was held. As I mentioned at the start of this report, this is where the year's events overlap. About thirty-five people came along and we had a very jolly evening. We were glad to see Patti again after her recent operation and also Adrian, out of hospital but not looking very well. Even so, Adrian insisted on doing some washing up as his contribution to the party. Cloudburst Band was on great form. They even danced whilst playing the Dorset Four Hand Reel.

On October 27th Adrian Baxter died. Richard was M.C. at the club on the following Friday. He suggested that members stand in silence to remember Adrian. Then Graham and Mark danced the Ox Dance which was one of Adrian's party pieces.

Adrian's funeral was on November 4th. A dozen Rainmakers were there. We thought of Adrian and his wife Sue who now permanently lives in a Nursing Home.

Thus ended the Rainmakers' Year - an eventful and a sad one.

I should like to thank all those who have given me photographs and articles for the Scrapbook.

I would also like to thank the club for being so kind and supportive to me whilst I was ill. All your cards, letters, phone calls and offers of help were very much appreciated.

Betty.

Christmas Party, December 17th, 2004
Music by Cloudburst
Display by Weston Appalachian Cloggers

Alunelul
Hashual
Chassene
Lublin polka
Syen Tu (CD)
Mona's Delight
Pirinska Pesen (CD)
Musica Nisherat(CD)
Sprotzer Achterum
Machar
Ya Abud (CD)
Merioneth
Deux, deux, deux
Salty Dog Rag (CD)
Karamfil
Kreuz Koenig
Polka Dot
Ada's Krajaviak (CD)
Renningen
~~Lo Ahavti Dai~~
Zabaljela Dunina Galovka (CD)
~~Kulsko Horo (CD)~~
Russian Waltz
~~Joe in Patru (CD)~~
~~Jota Mallorquina (CD)~~
Rav Brachot
~~Ma Navu~~
Mombar

KEY

Black = difficult dances. ('Government Heath Warning'.)

Red = moderately easy.

Green = easy

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Friday, 17th December 2004

Christmas Party.

When we arrived at the Parish Hall the room seemed to be full of people. This was because the Weston Appalachian Cloggers had arrived with some of their families and friends. They are led by Kerry Fletcher who came to ^{our} club a while ago to teach Swedish social dancing. Belinda and Maria, of Rainmakers, were two of the ten Cloggers.

Cloudburst Band had struck up and Jill was encouraging everyone to join in an easy circle dance. Jill had compiled a programme that included more easily followable dances than are usual at a club party. The list was graded à la ski runs, green, red and black so that novices knew which dances to try.

About twenty Rainmakers were present, which was a much better attendance than of late. We thought was a good thing that the Play School had moved out recently with all their equipment, so we had enough room for all.

Our visitors entertained us with two spots of dancing accompanied by their own excellent fiddler. The first spot showed us free-style dancing incorporating various steps. The second spot was choreographed when dancers came forward in ones and twos to demonstrate a sequence.

The Cloggers meet once a month on a Saturday morning at Weston. This was their first public display so considering some dancers are very much beginners, they did very well.

During our break for refreshments the Rainmakers thanked Jill for all the hard work she does for the club throughout the year and gave her a present.

We had a very enjoyable, different party than usual and we hoped our guests enjoyed themselves too. Maybe some will be tempted to come along to our Beginners Nights next term.

Tuesday, 28th December 2004.

Roy and Sandra's Party.

Roy Bowtell and Sandra Welch (of Roundabouts) gave a party at Ickleford Village Hall to celebrate their birthdays.

There were about 150 guests, many of them English dancers. The dance programme was all English dances.

The Rainmakers were asked to give a display of International Dances.

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

A friendly club for all

No partner needed - come and try dances
from many countries
You would be very welcome

*Special evenings for beginners
and those new to folk dancing*

Fridays 14 and 21 January 2005

We meet every Friday (apart from
Christmas and August)

8 – 10 pm, The Parish Hall, St Michael's
Church, Broadway, Letchworth

Contact 01462 457791

Rainmakers Calendar

(at 19 January 2005)

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, St Michael's Church, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone number 01462 457791. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

Friday 11 February	Shared evening led by Roger
Saturday 12 February	SIFD Day Course - Cornish
Saturday 12 March	SIFD Day Course - European
Good Friday 25 March	Meeting as usual, if demand
Saturday 9 April	SIFD Day Course
Saturday 16 April	Day course at St Michaels' with Frank Dowling 10.30 - 4.30
Friday 29 April to Monday 2 May	Eastbourne International Folk Festival
Saturday 21 May	Baldock Festival Day of Dance
Friday to be arranged	Evening workshop
Saturday 11 June	SIFD Day Course
Tuesday 5 to Sunday 10 July	International Eisteddfod, Llangollen
Saturday 9 July	SIFD Day Course
Friday 22 July	Last meeting of term
Saturday 23 July	Jill and Peter's Ruby Wedding celebration
Fridays 29 July, 5, 12, 19, 26 August	Garden evenings
Friday 2 September	First meeting of term
Saturday 10 September	SIFD Day Course
Friday 16, 23 September	Beginners' evenings
Saturday ?September 24th	Albert Hall demonstration
Saturday 8 October	SIFD Day Course
Friday 21 October	Anniversary dance
Saturday 12 November	SIFD Day Course
Friday 25 November - 3rd December	AGM
Friday 16 December - 16th Dec.	Christmas party
Friday 23 December	Meeting if demand

Note: SIFD Dances at Cecil Sharp House – normally first Sunday. SIFD day courses at Cecil Sharp House – normally third Saturday.

PLB 2.2.2005



Card from Jill and Peter to me (in hospital) March 16th.
 They were in Morocco.
 Would you dare to drink water bought from this chap? !!

April 18th 2005

Beautiful Japanese costume.
 Card from Jill and Peter to me (at home).
 Obviously bought from their trip to Japan last year.



東京の
 思い出
 映

31st March, 7 April, 14th April 2005.
World Dance Workshops.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE COLLEGE

SPRING FESTIVAL OF LEARNING

World Dance Workshops



All welcome – no partner needed

Thursdays 7.30pm to 9.30pm

31 March, 7 April, 14 April

at Letchworth Tennis Club,
Muddy Lane, Letchworth

FREE

To book, phone Central Enquiries on 01462 424239,
email enquiries@nhc.ac.uk or look at the web site www.nhc.ac.uk



These workshops were held in the ^{new} premises of the Letchworth Tennis Club now sited in Muddy Lane, Letchworth, Diana, Dick, Jill and Peter are members and have been much

involved in fund raising ^{for,} planning and organising the building of the larger new premises that include indoor courts. North Herts. College agreed to back the dance workshops and to publicise the Tennis Club and the Rainmakers as part of their Festival of Learning. Jill Bransky was the tutor for all the workshops.

I was unable to attend but several of our club members went along. Claire Steeley has kindly agreed to write about the workshops after the last session.

We hope we will recruit a few new members for the Rainmakers.

World Dance Workshops were held on
31st March, 7th April, and 14th April 2005

7.30 - 9.30 pm. at Letchworth Tennis Club,
Muddy Lane, Letchworth. Free of charge
Teacher - Jill Bransby.

This was organised through the North Herts
College Free Taster Scheme by Peter Bransby.
It was an excellent ~~opportunity~~^{idea} to
bring our International Dancing to the
notice and experience of a wider public.
The Venue was great. A pleasant room
with all wood floor in the new
Tennis club-house. It was an opportunity
to see this exciting new complex and
to use the bar for a drink at break
time.

All three evenings were well attended.
A slightly different mix of people each
week. Some people were from the
Tennis club, others had seen the
notice in the town, and others had
been told by friends.

Jill, as always, was an excellent
teacher and led people in the dances
in a lively, jovial manner. She
brought costumes and photographs for
people to see, and talked about the
dances and countries they came from.
There was great laughter in the Maori
Stick Dance with the wiggling of hips
and dropping of sticks. Whirling of
tambourines in the Sicilian Tarentella,
and sedate brushing of fans in the

Japanese Fan Dance. One of the people attending asked if we knew any Indian Dances, so the following week Jill invited Daksha & Phil along and the Raas was taught. The Danish Scottische and Salty Dog Rag were also part of the programme.

Peter, Graham and Claire attended all 3 sessions, and ~~made~~ ^{were} useful partners to the less experienced people.

The break in dancing spent in the Bar gave Rainmakers time to talk to people about our involvement in International Dancing and to ~~publicise~~ invite them to Rainmakers Friday evenings, and our Day Course with Frank Dowling to be held at St. Michaels Hall on 16th April.

Everyone attending these friendly evenings had a good time. There was plenty of laughter & giggles and people left having achieved a number of dances.

Well done Peter & committee for seizing this opportunity and thank you Jill for being willing to be the Teacher.

World Dance Classes – Spring Taster for NHC

Session 1.

Kak Pri Balke	Russia
Mayim Mayim	Israel
Maori Stick Dance	New Zealand
Sicilian Tarantella	Italy
(Danish Schottische	Denmark
(Salty Dog Rag	U.S.A.

Session 2.

Revision and:	
Alunelul	Romania
Ras	India
Bannelou	Brittany
Charachan Odori	Japan

Session 3.

Revision and:	
Mari Mariko	Bulgaria
La Bastringue	French Canada
Fyrmanna Schottische	Sweden
Walenki	Russia

May 30th 2005.



People wearing the local costume of Mont-Dore in the Auvergne where Peter and Jill are camping.

Jill said they watched a dancing display by local people wearing these costumes. The ages of the dancers ranged from very young children to the elderly. The proficiency of the dancers also varied very much too.

Rainmakers Calendar

(at 8 April 2005)

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, St Michael's Church, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone number 01462 457791. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

<i>Saturday 9 April</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course</i>
Thursday 14 April	World Dance Workshop, 7.30, Letchworth Tennis Club
Saturday 16 April	Day course at St Michaels' with Frank Dowling. 10.30 – 4.30.
<i>Friday 29 April to Monday 2 May</i>	<i>Eastbourne International Folk Festival</i>
Friday 13 May - to be confirmed	Rainmakers meal before dancing
Saturday 21 May	Baldock Festival Day of Dance – Rainmakers display
Friday to be arranged	French evening
Friday 10 June	Visit of Wigginton International Folk Dance Group to the club
<i>Saturday 11 June</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course</i>
<i>Tuesday 5 to Sunday 10 July</i>	<i>International Eisteddfod, Llangollen</i>
<i>Saturday 9 July</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course</i>
Friday 22 July	Last meeting of term
Saturday 23 July	Jill and Peter's Ruby Wedding celebration, Ickleford Village Hall
Fridays 29 July, 5, 12, 19, 26 August	Garden evenings
Friday 2 September	First meeting of term
<i>Saturday 10 September</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course</i>
Friday 16, 23 September	Beginners' evenings
<i>Saturday 24 September</i>	<i>Albert Hall demonstration</i>
<i>Saturday 8 October</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course</i>
Friday 21 October	Anniversary dance, with Cloudburst
<i>Saturday 12 November</i>	<i>SIFD Day Course</i>
Friday 25 November	AGM
Saturday to be arranged	Day course – Israeli?
Friday 16 December	Christmas party
Friday 23 December	Meeting if demand

Note: SIFD Dances at Cecil Sharp House – normally first Sunday. SIFD day courses at Cecil Sharp House – normally third Saturday.

PLB 8.4.2005

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

*present a day course of eastern
European dances taught by*

Frank Dowling

Saturday 16 April

**The Parish Hall, St Michael's Church,
Broadway, Letchworth, Herts**

(5 min walk from Letchworth station, reached from
Kings Cross)

10.30am -1.00pm & 2.00pm - 4.30pm

£7 Full Day, £4.50 Half Day

Tea , coffee and squash available

Bring lunch, or walk 5 min to cafes.

Contact 01462 457791

RAINMAKERS' DAY COURSE WITH FRANK
DOWLING ON APRIL 16th.

Siganos (Crete)

Manastirijana (E. Serbia)

Xesyrtos (Greece- West Trace)

Zonaradikos (Greece -West Trace)

Hora iute cu bățai (Romania)

Svornato (Bulgaria)

Skopski sa-sa (Rom./Gypsy)

Fjäskern (South Sweden)

Sâbrali sa se sâbrali (Bulgaria)

Konyali (Turkey)

Saturday, 16th April 2005

Day Course at St. Michael's Hall, Letchworth
(Now known as the Parish Hall)

10.30 a.m. - 4.30 p.m.

Tutor: Frank Dowling,

The committee predicted that this would be a popular Day Course as Frank Dowling is a well-known, excellent teacher and he mostly teaches Balkan dances which many people enjoy. He travelled to Letchworth from the North-East (Durham area) just for the day.

Peter prudently booked St. Michael's Hall instead of our usual Radwell Village Hall as the venue.

I am told that 30 people were present - including 4 ladies and 2 men from other clubs.

Rainmakers attending were:- Jill, Belinda, Maria, Claire, Avril, Suzanne, Julie and Pam, Graham, Peter^S, Roger, Mark, Dick, Richard, Alan, Peter L, Henry i.e. 8 women, 9 men.

At lunchtime Dick and Richard left, three elderly ladies came, another lady came and left after half an hour's dancing and then Diana arrived at 3.15 p.m.

Despite these comings and goings it was a very successful day. Frank's teaching was clear and encouraging. The programme was varied and interesting. All present enjoyed it very much and many of the dances learned are likely to stay in the club's repertoire.

Eastbourne International Folk Festival.
Friday, 29th April to Monday, 2nd May.

The International part of this festival was organised by S.I.F.D. members. Cloudburst band did not attend this year to play for evening dances. Jill was not teaching or M.C. for dances so she and Peter were free to choose whatever workshops they preferred. Claire, from Rainmakers, and her husband Geoff set up and manned the S.I.F.D. shop that raises quite a lot of money for the society. It was said to be an enjoyable but different festival from past years.

Friday, 13th May 2005.

A meal before dancing.

This was a new idea for Rainmakers. Julie booked a table at an Italian restaurant in Letchworth. The idea was to give club members the opportunity to socialise and chat as there is never enough time on a normal club evening. Ten people decided to try the experiment. We made our choices from the menu and the food was good. However several "Hen" parties of noisy young women were also present and the din was excruciating. Conversation was impossible! However, we decided to try Julie's idea again another time. She was thanked for her efforts.

Thursday, May 5th 2005.

Kolos Ukrainian Folk Ensemble

from Tortchin in north west Ukraine

One of the best groups ever to visit the
Milton Keynes International Festival.

46 strong - Dancers; Singers; Musicians

Thurs May 5th 7.30pm
Stantonbury Campus

Theatre,

Saxon Street,

Milton Keynes, MK14 6BN

Box Office 01908 324422

(10 am to 2 pm Mon to Fri)



Tickets £10
(£8 concessions)
Further details
from Don Allison
on 01908 610564
donanjill@dallison.
fslife.co.uk



Financial assistance is acknowledged from Milton Keynes Arts Association

Though the Milton Keynes Festival no longer happens this team asked to come this year, Henry and Betty enjoyed a superb show - better than seen many times at Sidmouth.

Baldock Street Fair. 21-5-05

May 21st Baldock at White Lion, High Street.



Rainmakers waiting their turn to dance.



Demonstration in Baldock, May 21, 10.30 am.

Meet at The White Lion, High Street in Baldock at 10.30. We will meet with all the dance teams, do one dance and then move off to do our own spot. Martin will play for us. We then may return to join the whole group just before lunch. We have not offered to dance in the afternoon.

Costumes – red and black Basque.

Hora Hadera (all) (x4)

Neapolitan Tarantella Graham & Julie, Jill & Maria, Roger & Shelia

Karamfil (just 2 verses) (all)

Hava Nagila (x3) Jill & Belinda & Sheila & Maria (two facing two in lines) (1. facing; 2. change sides; 3. all face Maria and Shelia's original side.)

Bourree de la Chapelotte Roger, Julie & Sheila, Graham, Jill & Belinda

Hashual (all) (x3)

Kreuz Koenig Roger & Julie, Graham & Maria

A Gota Graham & Belinda, Jill & Maria, Roger & Sheila

Ba Pardess (all) (a bit shorter than normal)

Kuma Echa (all)

Dorset Four Hand Reel Graham & Belinda, Roger & Jill

Rav Brachot (all)

I hope that you have all got enough dancing. I've tried to swap the women in and out fairly, I hope, but Graham and Roger (and Martin) will have to work hard! We may not do all these dances.



Midnight Morris

The rain
comes on.



Demonstration in Baldock High Street.
Saturday, 21st May 2005

Once again this year the Rainmakers were asked to give a display of their dances at the annual Baldock Street Fair. They were allocated a spot outside the White Lion pub, fortunately not next to the barbecue this year.

Other dancing teams were also allocated this spot so they had to take turns. Eight Rainmakers including Martin, of Cloudburst Band who was also the musician, took part.



Martin doing a solo spot in the rain!





Stalwart Martin soldiers on, dancing to a tape whilst his accordion is kept dry.

In The White Lion at lunchtime



Rainmakers retreat to the pub for lunch, warmth and a dry out.

Dancing in the Church Hall in the day



They did not volunteer to dance in the street again but went through their programme indoors.

Kreuz loening





Kreuz Köning



coffee in the Church Hall.

A welcome break out of the rain,
Will the Baldock Festival organisers want the
Rainmakers next year?

Friday, 10th June 2005,
Visit of Wiggington Folk Dance Group to
our club in Letchworth.

"For years we have seen the name "Wiggington Folk Dance Group" listed in the S.I.F.D. News as associate members of the Society but we have never met any of them. Wiggington is a village near Tring, Herts. - the other side of the M1 from Letchworth, about one hour's drive away.

Our committee decided it is a pity not to know our neighbours in the S.I.F.D. so we invited them to visit us on Friday, 10th June. Eight ladies came. Apparently the group is all ladies, very keen and have been going for many years. We were delighted to see them.

After phone calls to their leader, Jill arranged a programme of dances familiar to both clubs plus some of our easily followable dances.

It was a very happy evening. During the break Julie served scones, cream and strawberries.

One visitor remarked "We don't have delicious refreshments like this." Our reply was "Nor do we on a normal night!"

Thanks were expressed to Jill and Julie. Our guests had enjoyed themselves. The hope we will go to Wiggington some time.

Thursday, 30th June. 2005

Rainmakers Go To Wiggington,

An invitation came to Rainmakers for us to go to Wiggington on Thursday, 30th June when Janet Woolbar was going to be teaching a workshop there.

Six Rainmakers went along and were warmly welcomed by the Wiggington club members. Neither the village nor the school were easy to find but it was very pleasant there once we arrived.

Janet taught six European dances.

They were!:-

AMADA DA MINHA ALMA	Portugal
A CHULA	Portugal
HIRSCH ENERGRABLER	Switzerland
NAGELSCHMIED	Switzerland
EN ALLANT AUX CHATAIGNES	Switzerland
VALSA DANADA	Portugal.

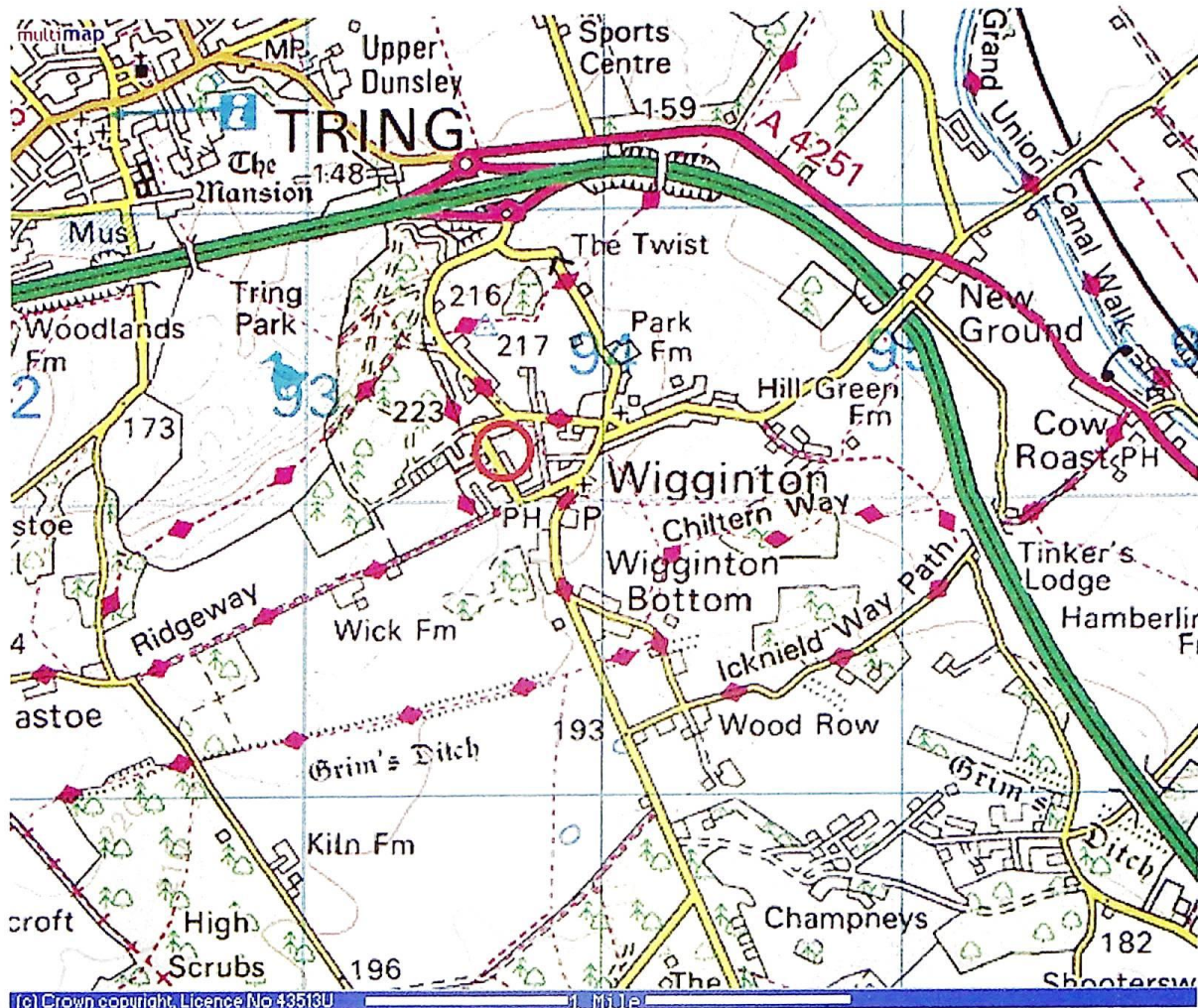
Tuesday 5th to Sunday 10th July.

International Fisteddfod, Llangollen.

This year only Jill and Claire went to Llangollen from Rainmakers. They said it was organised differently from past years. The traditional street procession had to be cancelled because of bad weather. Only eleven foreign dance teams took part in the competitions. Difficulty in obtaining visas, bombings in London, sponsors withdrawing funds were all blamed. One whole evening was given to flamenco dancing which delighted some but →

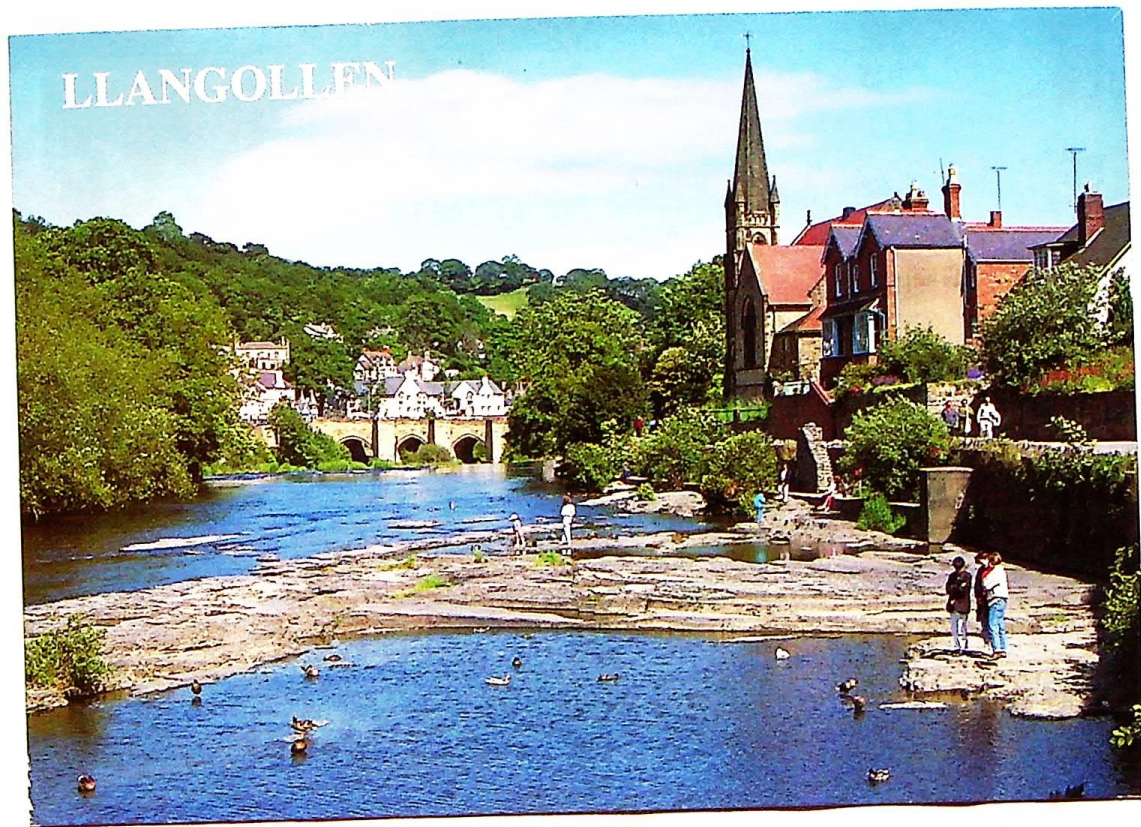
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Card from Jill at the International
Eisteddfod, Llangollen, 5th - 10th July.

Team from Asturias won the adult
dancing competition!

The Loughiel Dancers from Ireland
won the children's dancing competition.

Rainmakers Calendar

(at 2 July 2005)

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, St Michael's Church, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone number 01462 457791. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

Tuesday 5 to Sunday 10 July	International Eisteddfod, Llangollen
Saturday 9 July	SIFD Day Course
Friday 22 July	Last meeting of term
Saturday 23 July	Jill and Peter's Ruby Wedding celebration, 7.30 pm, Ickleford Village Hall
Thursday 28 July (TBC)	Demonstration at Sue's care home
Fridays 29 July, 5, 12, 19, 26 August	Garden evenings
Friday 2 September	First meeting of term
Saturday 10 September	SIFD Day Course
Friday 16, 23 September	Beginners' evenings
Friday 30 September	Rainmakers dinner <i>Chinese</i>
Wednesday 5 October	Committee meeting
Saturday 8 October	SIFD Day Course
Friday 21 October	Anniversary dance, with Cloudburst
Saturday 12 November	SIFD Day Course
Friday 25 November - <i>3rd December</i>	AGM
Saturday to be arranged <i>19th November</i>	Day course - Israeli?
Friday 16 December	Christmas party
Friday 23 December	Meeting if demand

Note: SIFD Dances at Cecil Sharp House - normally first Sunday. SIFD day courses at Cecil Sharp House - normally third Saturday.

Celebration of Rainmakers' 30th Anniversary

The Committee invites members' views on how we should celebrate our 30th anniversary in 2006. The following ideas have been suggested. Please let us know any ideas you have and which suggestion(s) you think would be best. We will discuss this at the AGM.

1. A Saturday night Anniversary Dance, widely publicised
2. New T-shirts or other apparel. A design competition could be held
3. A gathering type of event, where other clubs were invited to display
4. A dance at which other clubs were invited to display
5. A trip on a river or canal boat or a punt trip to Grantchester
6. A weekend dance course held locally to which we would invite others - equivalent to two day courses and a dance on Saturday evening
7. A weekend away eg the Cotswolds, perhaps with other groups or linked to other events
8. A dinner, with 'party pieces' of a humorous or historical nature
9. An evening out to a show or a dance event eg ballet.

PLB 2.7.2005

displeased others. The Celtic Evening was reported as being "boring."

The choral, solo singers and musicians competitions were of a very high standard,

No workshops for the public to join in with the foreign dance teams were held.

Does it seem that the dancing sections of this International Fisteddfoed will be allowed to die out? We sincerely hope not.

Friday, 22nd July.

Last meeting of team.

Sun shines for Rainmakers

One could be forgiven for thinking the local Rainmakers are a bunch of Letchworthians seen praying on their knees in Norton Common for the heavens to open – that could not be further from the truth. In fact, the Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group are very much on their feet and have been since 1976.

The group meets in St Michael's Parish Hall, Broadway, on most Friday evenings from 8pm-10pm, where they practice a variety of dances from countries all over the world – from Bulgaria to Sweden, India to Japan and Spain to Russia and many more.

They dance in lines, circles, couples or sets of many formations, fast, slow, easy and complicated and they have performed in annual Folk Dance festivals around the country and abroad. Wearing the appropriate and sometimes very colourful costumes, are very much part of the group's 'stage presence.'

Newcomers over 16 years old are more than welcome and can go with or

without a partner. Julie Brix told *Izssight*: "New members will soon surprise themselves as to what they can do. As their experience grows, they will be challenged by the more complicated dances. Rainmakers have done many displays and members have the opportunity to show off their new found dancing skills."

There are many dance activities beyond Friday club nights. The club runs a day course each year and particularly enjoys performing displays in old folks homes.

If you are interested in joining or would like to know more about the Rainmakers then ring Peter or Jill on 457791 or Katka on 685645.



FRONT COVER: Past & present photos of five Centenary makers. Turn to pages 7 to 10 and find out the full story behind their landmark contributions to the Garden City.

02 *Insight*

Insight

Editor: Terry Gray
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Publicity in the Letchworth G.C. magazine.

Saturday, 23rd July 2005.

Jill and Peter's Ruby Wedding Celebration.
Ickleford Village Hall.



Jill and Peter celebrated their fortieth wedding anniversary by giving a party for their friends and family at Ickleford Village Hall. All the Rainmakers were invited and almost all were there. Peter remarked "We have known you lot almost all the time we have been married." Of course there were dancing friends from the Staphers, the Roundabouts, the S.I.F.D., Fine Companions, a few family members and other friends present - about sixty people in all. Cloudburst Band were there to play for the

dancing. They were on fine form, playing both English and International dances.



Peter and Jill had done an enormous amount of work preparing for the party. A programme of popular, followable English and International dances ensured that almost everyone would be on the floor, "having a go". Ann Leach of the S.I.F.D. led the "foreign" dances and Keith Harrup, the regular caller for Cloudburst's bookings, ^{and Nick Plummer} called the English dances so that Jill was free to dance. There was a great atmosphere.

During the interval for refreshments we toasted the happy couple who cut their anniversary cake and Peter made a speech.

Daksha Trivedi then stepped forward to read her speech - a tribute to Jill and Peter which consisted of a clever parody of part of the Anglican marriage service, quotations from Goethe, Lord Byron and songs by Dusty Springfield

and Helen Shapiro.

Jill & Peter's Ruby anniversary dance 23 July 2005. Speech by Daksha Trivedi on behalf of Rainmakers.

"Dearly Beloved, we are gathered together here in the face of this company of friends all true and noble to stand reverently, discreetly, advisedly and solemnly to witness the evidence that these two persons, Jill and Peter present now having passed the dance of time, stand before us to mark their 40 years of being together. If any person can show just cause why they may not continue – let them speak now or forever hold their peace....."

Jill and Peter, we pronounce you 'happily married...."

Jill and Peter's love of dancing is most appropriately expressed by Goethe

Please send me your last pair of shoes, worn out with dancing as you mentioned in your letter, so that I might have something to press against my heart. ~Johann Wolfgang von Goethe

And Lord Byron who does not wish to be left out of this occasion sends this message to Peter and Jill...

**On with the dance! let joy be unconfined;
No sleep till morn, when Youth and Pleasure meet
To chase the glowing hours with flying feet.
~George Gordon Byron, Childe Harold's Pilgrimage**

On a more contemporary note in July 1965 – when Jill and Peter got married, 2 songs became famous, in fact the whole world danced to them...

**I only want to be with you....Dusty Springfield...
Walking back to happiness...Helen Shapiro...**
As indeed Jill and Peter have done so.....

On behalf of Rainmakers and all present here I would like to offer this token of our appreciation for inviting us all to this special day, Jill and Peter you deserve to be congratulated...for you have lasted the distance..! Thank you for inviting us and we hope you have many many more happy years together.

We look forward to your golden anniversary.....!

With much laughter we gave Daksha an appreciative round of applause. On behalf of all the guests Daksha thanked Jill and Peter for inviting us to their special party.

Time was slipping by so we hurried back to the main hall for more dancing.

The members of the band came down from

Peter and Jill's Ruby Dance Programme

Music by Cloudburst

Callers: Anne, Keith and Nick

8.25 Singing Spot by Liz and Jim

9.00 Refreshments

Anne Boanopstekker
Branle de Connay

Keith Foula Reel
Halfe Hannikin

Anne Hora Hadera
Jesusita en Chihuahua

Nick Childgrove
Picking up Sticks

Anne Neapolitan Tarantella
Meillionen
Jota Mallorquina

Keith Snowflake Breakdown
Danish Double Quadrille

Anne Kreuz Koenig
Lludo Mlado

Nick Dorset Four-hand Reel
Merry Andrew

Anne Jota Tapatia
La Bastringue
~~Födelsdagwals~~
Hambo

Nick *Display of Fackeltanz*
Nonsuch
The Dorset Triumph

Anne ~~Moi-Muzenka~~

Ha'ora Haktana

Display of Fackeltanz – led by Belinda

Jill Polonez
~~Shir Ha' Chatuna~~

Brian Makedonska

Keith Devil's Dream
Circassian Circle

Key:

Green dances easy

Red Dances moderately easy

Black dances difficult, only for those who know the dances, they will not be called or walked. Government Health Warning!



Peter, Jill, Daksha



the stage to sing a Balkan folk song from the middle of the room, whilst the Rainmakers who knew it as a dance, danced round them.

One of Jill and Peter's friends from their Cambridge days sang a funny song to entertain us.

Another break in the general dancing was the performance of the Italian Fackel Tanz, by sixteen Rainmakers. This was by ^{the} special request of Jill and Peter. Each dancer held a lighted candle. The hall lights were extinguished to give a magical effect as the dancers circled and formed varying patterns in the darkened room.

There is a device in ~~West~~ Ickleford Village Hall for the benefit of the neighbours. After 10.30 the power for the band cuts out if the sound goes above a certain number of decibels. A guage facing the band goes up as the volume of sound increases. As Jill was desparately trying to finish the programme there were cries of "Sh Sh!" so that we could get to the end.

It was a wonderful evening and everyone there was so glad to have been invited.



*Peter and Jill thank you for all your cards
and good wishes and especially for coming to
our Ruby celebrations. We had a good time
and hope you did too.*





Dancing the Fackel Tanz. (The camera flash has counteracted the effect of the candlelight.)



Letter of thanks from Till and Peter.

Thursday, 28th July 2005.

Dancing for Sue.

About eight Rainmakers went to Victoria Court, a satellite of the Hister Hospital, Stevenage, on a very hot afternoon, to give a dancing display for the patients there. This is a residential home for people suffering from dementia and Alzheimer's disease. One of these residents was a Rainmaker, Sue Barber, who was ^{once} a very active club member, an excellent dancer and maker of costumes who occasionally led a club evening. It was so sad to see her there.

We wore bright, cheerful costumes and Jill led a lively programme. The residents were crowded into a small common room, seated in large chairs which did not leave much room for dancing but we did our best.

Sue's daughters, Sarah and Claire, encouraged their mother to dance by holding her on each side. To our amazement she remembered the steps of an Israeli dance though she did not recognise us. Around the room there were some tapping feet and nodding heads indicating that the music was being enjoyed.

Afterwards staff and relatives of the residents thanked us warmly for going so, though we came away greatly saddened, we knew the visit had been well worthwhile.

A card of thanks was received from Sue's children, Sarah, Claire and David.

~~Richard~~
Henry Betty

Demonstration at Sue's Home

Thursday 28 July, 3 pm. Meet 2.55pm

Mixed costumes.

Victoria Court, off Graveley Road, Stevenage. See map below.

Likely team Richard, Julie, Claire, Jill, Peter

Possible dances

Neapolitan Tarantella

Hashual

Kreuz Koenig

Erev Bar

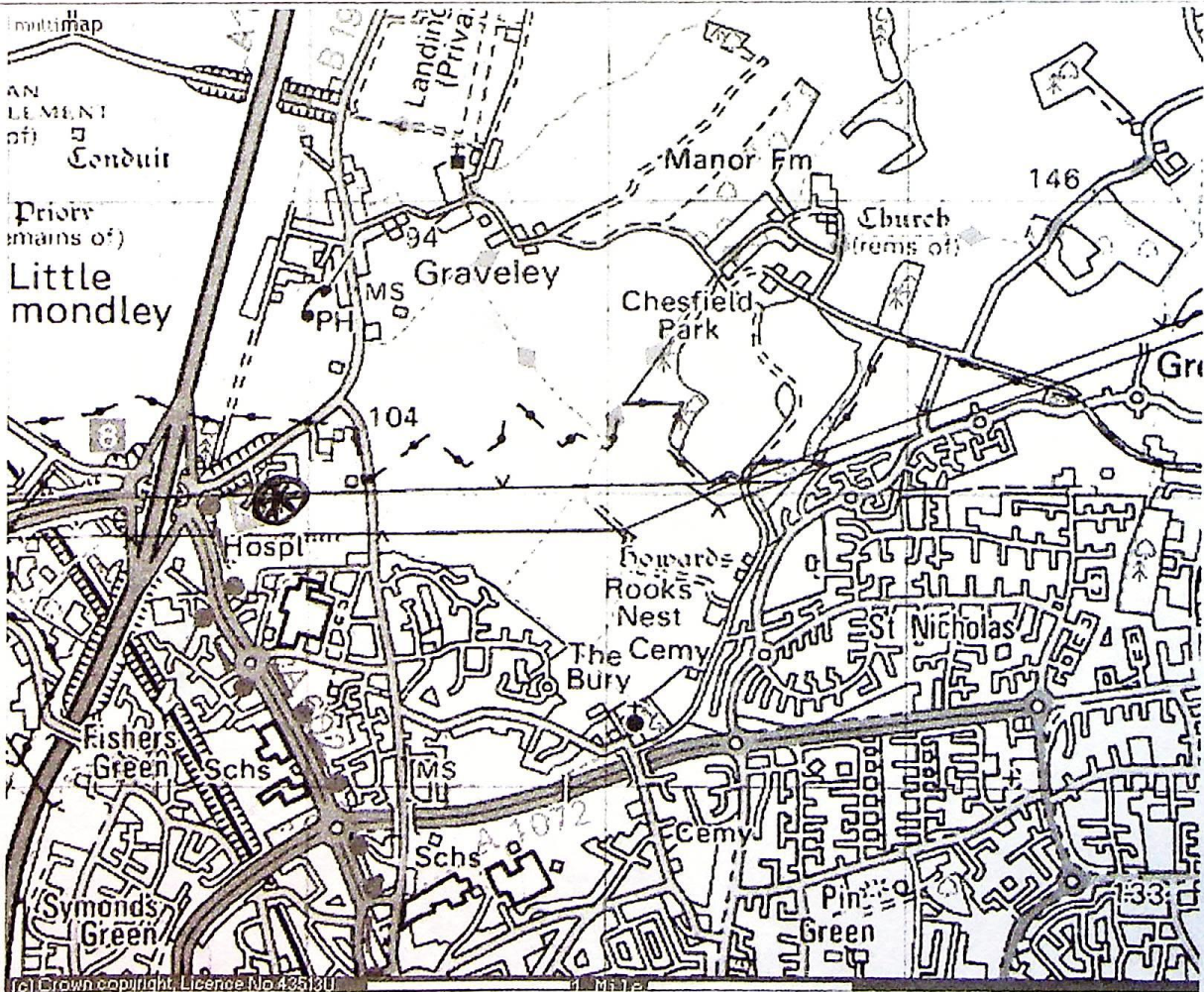
Jesusita en Chihuahua

Ba Pardess

Polka Dot

Bourree de la Chapelotte

Ssulum Ya'kov





Great Lake Baikal

August 18th 2005.

Card to all Rainmakers from Julie on
a long train journey with stops to
explore at various points on the Trans
Siberian Railway - Moscow to Peking,

Card of thanks from Sue's children.



Garden Evenings, 2005

Friday, 29th July

Nine Rainmakers went to Claire and Geoff's lovely garden in Letchworth. The weather was beautiful and we relaxed, enjoying our favourite dances. When we went indoors for refreshments it was very nice for everyone to be able to sit down together and join in the same conversation.

Though small in numbers it was a memorable evening, much appreciated by those present.

Card of thanks from Sue's children.

27 Broadwater Crescent
Stevenage
Herts
SG2 8EQ

Dear Rainmakers.

Thankyou for coming to dance for Mum last thursday it was a lovely afternoon, it was nice to get some reaction out of Mum.

Thankyou once again

love

Clare, Sarah

& David

Garden Evenings, 2005

Friday, 29th July

Nine Rainmakers went to Claire and Geoff's lovely garden in Letchworth. The weather was beautiful and we relaxed, enjoying our favourite dances. When we went indoors for refreshments it was very nice for everyone to be able to sit down together and join in the same conversation.

Though small in numbers it was a memorable evening, much appreciated by those present.

Friday, 5th August, 2005

A few more people than at Claire's went to Jill and Peter's house in Hitchin. Have most of the Rainmakers taken early holidays this year?

As usual we were given a very warm welcome and had a jolly time dancing up and down the slope and dodging the tree until darkness sent us indoors.

Like last week, the opportunity to converse with our fellow club members was a pleasure, as well as enjoying a garden on a Summer's evening.

Our hosts and hostesses go to much trouble to prepare these evenings and we thank them sincerely for inviting us.

Sad News.

During August we learned of the death of Gordon Stacey, in Suffolk, one of the founder members, who with Jill, his wife Dalphine and Roy and René Bowtell, started the Rainmaker Club.

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

A friendly club for all

No partner needed - come and try dances
from many countries
You would be very welcome

*Special evenings for beginners and
those new to folk dancing*

Fridays 16 and 23 September 2005

We meet every Friday (apart from
Christmas and August)

8 – 10 pm, The Parish Hall, St Michael's
Church, Broadway, Letchworth

Contact 01462 457791

A new term began on Friday, 2nd September.
As always, we are hoping to recruit some new
members.

Dance Around the World

Annual Festival of International Traditional Dance

15-16 October
2005
10 am until late

Saturday
£7 - day
£5 - evening

Sunday
£7 - inclusive
£5 - eve only

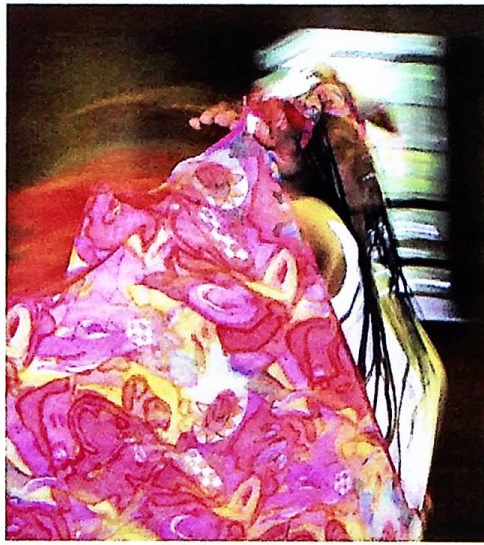


Photo © Peter Cleghorn

Cecil Sharp House
2 Regents Park Road
Camden NW1 7AY

Festival web-site
www.datw.org.uk

E-mail
danceoffice@waitrose.com

Phone
020 8340 4683
07749007040

(Leave a message
if no answer)

Well worth a visit. Dance displays of a very high standard from 9.30 a.m., half an hour each one, until 6.30 p.m. October 15th and 16th.

Workshops in Trefusis with the display teams whilst displays are going on upstairs. You make your choice.

From 7.30 p.m. a folk dance with a caller and band.

Prices are shown above.

Saturday, 24th September 2005.

On Show.

Demonstrations by teams affiliated to the C. C. P. R. at the Royal Albert Hall, London.

No Rainmakers took part in the S. I. F. D. display this year but Henry was there, dancing quadrilles with his Early Dance Group.

Rainmakers Calendar

(at 27 October 2005)

Rainmakers meet regularly on Fridays at 8 to 10 pm at The Parish Hall, St Michael's Church, Broadway, Letchworth, Herts. All are welcome. Contact phone numbers 01462 457791 and 01438 316651. Special dates and *external activities* likely to be of interest to members are listed.

Saturday 19 November	Day course – Roberto Haddon (Israeli dances). 10.30 to 4.30. The Parish Hall, St Michaels
Friday 25 November <i>2nd December.</i>	AGM
Friday 16 December	Christmas party
Friday 23 December	Meeting if demand
Friday 30 December	Meeting if demand
Friday 6 January	First meeting of term
Friday late January - tba	Rainmakers dinner

Note: SIFD Dances at Cecil Sharp House – normally first Sunday. SIFD day courses at Cecil Sharp House – normally third Saturday.

PLB 27.10.2005

Friday, 30th September 2005.

A Chinese Meal.

Before going to St. Michael's Hall for our usual club evening, ten Rainmakers met at a Chinese restaurant in Letchworth for a Chinese meal.

This was a very successful event as we liked the restaurant, the food was good and it was quiet. We were able to chat and hear about everyone's holidays – some of them to interesting, far flung places.

Our thanks to Julie for arranging this event.

Barmaids protest at probably the silliest directive in the world

By Kate Connolly

BAVARIAN barmaids are to be forced by a European Union directive to cover up, supposedly to protect them from the sun.

Brewery owners, politicians and most of the women themselves have condemned the legislation as absurd, claiming the "tan ban", as it has been nicknamed, will destroy a centuries-old tradition.

Bavarian barmaids typically dress in a costume known as a "dirndl", a dress and apron with a tight, low-cut top whose figure-hugging effect is enhanced by a short white blouse.

Under the EU's Optical Radiation Directive, employers of staff who work outdoors, including those in Bavaria's beer gardens, must ensure they cover up against the risk of sunburn.

Bavarian bar keepers have been told that the dirndl, generally rather revealing, will have to be replaced as it offers no protection against what the directive calls "natural sources of radiation", meaning sunlight.

Employers now face heavy fines if they fail to protect their workers from the threat of sunburn or skin cancer.

"This is European law-making at its most pedantic," said Munich's mayor,

Christian Ude. "A waitress is no longer allowed to wander round a beer garden with a plunging neckline. I would not want to enter a beer garden under these conditions."

A spokesman for the Bavarian Hotel and Restaurant Union said: "I have spoken to lots of waitresses and none of them have told me that sunburn in the décolleté area has ever been a problem."

Organisers of the world's biggest beer festival, Munich's Oktoberfest, which habitually attracts more than six million visitors a year, were particularly angry at the proposed ban. "This is an attack on the traditions of a region," said a spokesman.

The new legislation, which is due to be voted on in the European parliament next month, was defended by Wolfgang Kreissl-Dörfer, a Bavarian MEP. He said: "Sun rays have become more aggressive and there has been a huge increase in the amount of skin cancer."

The directive was initially aimed at outlawing bare-chested British builders. But Britain opted out of signing it, arguing that it was up to employees and employers to use their common sense to guard against the sun.

Editorial Comment: Page 23



A barmaid in a dirndl at last year's Oktoberfest : organisers say a cover-up destroys a tradition

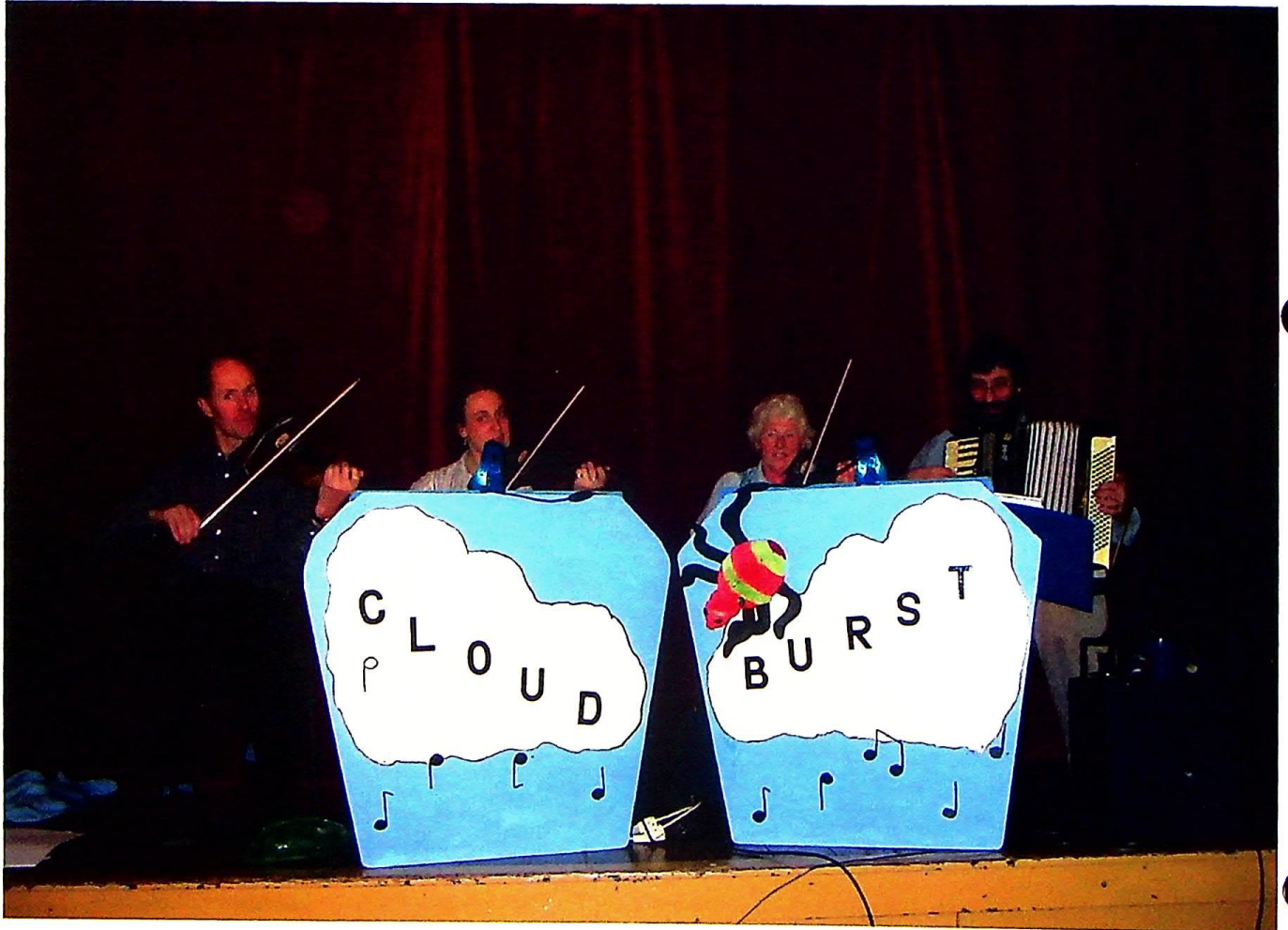
Item from Isabel's newspaper.
Silly directive from E.E.C. prohibiting the wearing of low cut dirndl dresses at beer festivals "In case the waitresses catch cold!"

Friday, 21st October 2005

Rainmakers' 29th Anniversary Dance.

Methodist Central Hall, Letchworth.

Rainmakers' 29th Anniversary Dance at Methodist Central Hall, Oct 21st, 2005.



You will notice that there is a different venue from usual for the Rainmakers' Anniversary Dance. On that day, 21st October, Peter was informed that St. Michael's Parish Hall, Letchworth, would not be available for us after all as there were problems with the floor. Poor Peter and Jill, having just returned from Scotland after the birth of their grandchild, had to find another hall and let people know where to go. Fortunately the Methodist Central Hall happened to be

Rainmakers' 29th Anniversary Dance
Friday 21st October, 2005
Music by *Cloudburst*

Hora Hadera
Hine ma Tov

Bourree de la Brande d'Ardentes
Le Rond Argentonais

Chotis de la Frontera
Polka Dot

Pomasko Sirto (CD)
Svornato (CD)

Fadinho Tres Tempos
Dorset Four-hand Reel

Joc de Leagane (CD)
Zabaljela Dunina Galovka (CD)

Fodelsdagwals
Swedish Schottische

Pirinska Pesen (CD)
Bourree Tournante

Neapolitan Tarantella
Castro Almaine

Kryzok
Syen Tu (CD)

La Bourree Pastourelle
Bannielou Lambaol (CD)

Kreuz Koenig
Mellionen

Reiach Tapuach (CD)

Maruska

~~Salty Dog Rag (CD)~~

Nagelsmied

~~Yaman Yar (CD)~~

~~Joe in Patru (CD)~~

Jota Mallorquina (CD)

Zemer Atik

~~Hortepiep~~

Erev Ba

Congratulations to the Rainmakers!

(We may not have time for all these dances.)

Key.

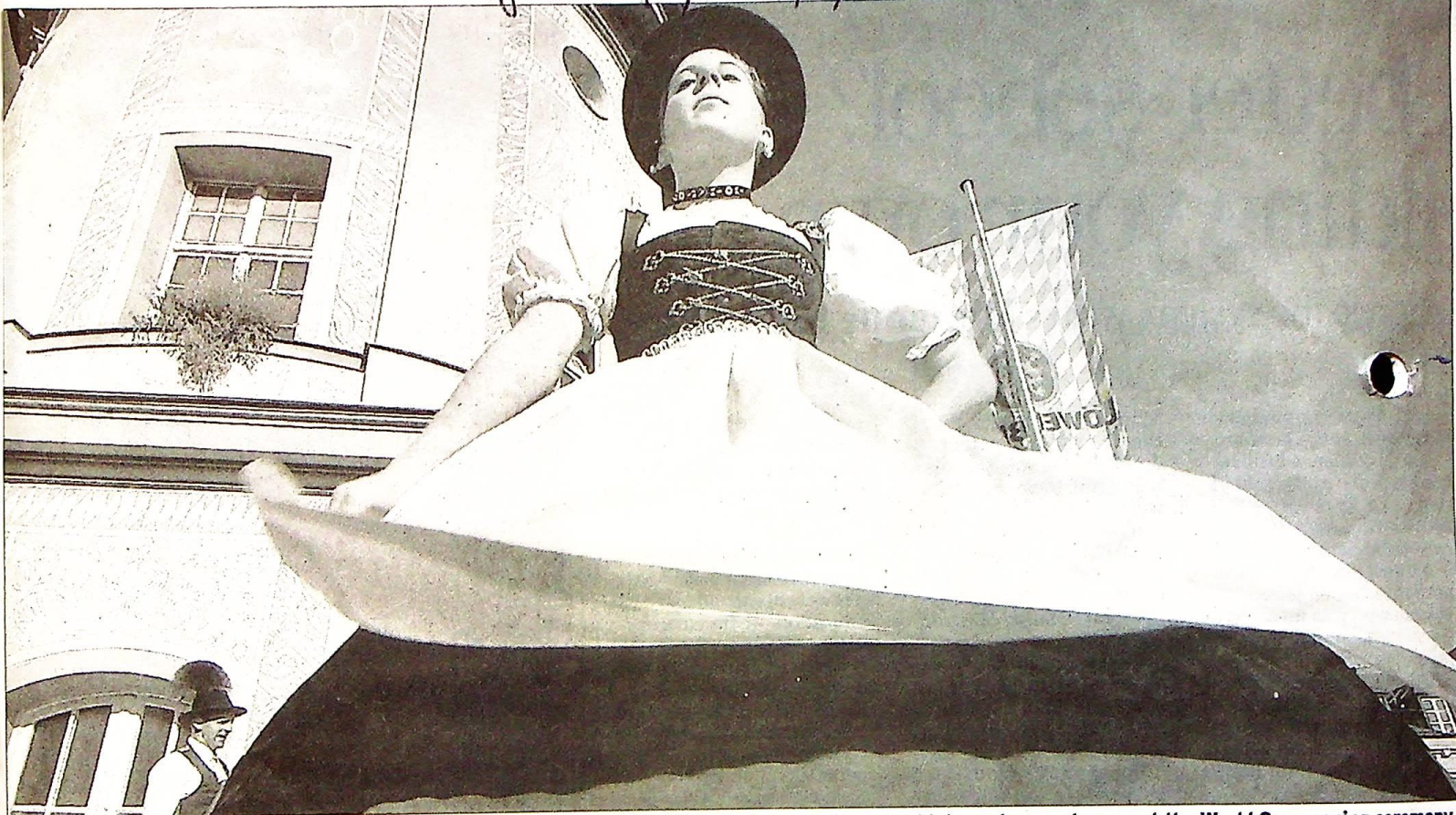
green = easy

red = moderately easy

black = difficult

Daily telegraph 2/11/05

AFP/GETTY IMAGES



Banned: a woman in traditional Bavarian folk dance costume. Organisers say their 'dirndl' skirts would take up too much room at the World Cup opening ceremony

Bavarian folk dancers flounce out of World Cup opening ceremony

By Kate Connolly
in Berlin

BAVARIAN folk dancers say they will boycott the opening ceremony of the 2006 World Cup finals in Germany because they have been offered only 45 seconds to show off their steps.

The Folk Dancing Association said the slot offered in the 20-minute

show was an "insult". Bernd Walter, deputy leader of the association, said: "We'd love to show off to an audience of millions, but we're not going to be fobbed off. Our dancing is a very exact discipline and we just wouldn't have time to demonstrate anything. Rather than look like a bunch of idiots, we'd rather the World Cup went ahead without us."

The lederhosen-clad men are also angry that their female dance partners have been excluded from the ceremony in Munich's Allianz Arena on June 9 because organisers say their full "dirndl" skirts would "take up too much room".

Responding to the complaints, Frederik Mayet, one of the ceremony's directors, said: "My

production is not to be turned into a parade of traditional dress, like at the Oktoberfest [beer festival]. It must be a show the whole world can understand."

Earlier controversial decisions have resulted in US brewers winning the drinks contract, elbowing out German beers, while VIPs are to be driven round in Japanese cars.

Wearers of Bavarian folk costumes are again the victims of silly official directives. They must be regarded as "too old fashioned".
We say "Good for them!" 45 seconds is a ridiculous length of time to be allocated to demonstrate a dance.

vacant as the Guides were not meeting in half term week.

Besides a big turn-out of Rainmakers we usually expect visitors from other S.I.F.D. clubs as the event is well advertised in the S.I.F.D. News. Phone calls were made and notices printed and posted outside St. Michael's Hall.

We set off in good time, found St. Michael's in darkness, read posters and diverted to the Central Methodist Hall in Pixmore Way, not very far away. There we found the band setting up, Jill, Peter and a few Rainmakers scurrying about and four visitors.

The dance started only a few minutes late and Jill went ahead with her programme.

We had a most enjoyable evening. All ten Rainmakers plus our four visitors dancing almost every dance to the music of Cloudburst who played splendidly. The refreshments were delicious, including an anniversary cake, made by Julie.

Some of us thought that being in a different, very nice, hall, helped to make the evening more special than being in our usual venue.

So the event was a success (probably not financially) but where were the rest of the Rainmakers? Not celebrating our 29th Anniversary obviously.

Very many thanks to Peter and Jill for saving the day.

Saturday, 19th November 2005

Israeli Day Course.

The Rainmakers arranged a Day Course of Israeli dancing to be taught by Roberto Haddon on 19th November at St. Michael's Hall, Letchworth. Roberto is a prestige teacher of Israeli dancing and our committee was delighted that he had designated the only slot in his busy schedule to come to us.

Two weeks before the event, the S. I. F. D. changed the date of their Day Course in London to the same date as ours. Some of the same people were likely to attend both Day Courses. Were we going to be stymied? The Rainmakers decided to stick with their arrangements.

Afterwards Peter said "It was a wonderful Day Course."

Twenty three people paid for a full day in the morning and four people came in the afternoon. One lady came from a club in the Midlands, three came from Wigginton near Tring and four from the Bromley area, Kent.

I am told that Roberto looked around the room, assessing the likely ability of his class and began to teach slowly and clearly. As the day wore on he speeded up his teaching. The dances were mostly lively and modern.

Apparently everyone enjoyed themselves very much.

Roberto Haddon's Programme, 19-11-05.

1. ERETZ ISRAEL YAFA
"Beautiful Land of Israel."

2. HEY YO YA
Expression of joy, encouragement.

3. SHIRALETZ
"Song of a Tree."

4. BOU NASHIR LEERETZ YAFA
"Come, Sing to a Beautiful Country."

5. LEMOLADETI
"To My Homeland"

6. MIMUNA
Moroccan celebration.

7. KIRYA YEFEFIAYA
"Most Beautiful of Cities."

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group

Minutes of the AGM held at 8.05pm on 23 November 2004 at the Parish Hall, Letchworth

1	Welcome Peter welcomed those attending and declared that a quorum was present.	
2	Attendance and apologies Those present (17 members) recorded their names on a sheet circulated for the purpose. Apologies had been received from Jill, Janet, Phil, Daksha and Patti.	
3	Minutes and matters arising	
3.1	AGM 28 November 2003 <i>Accuracy</i> The minutes were accepted as a true record. <i>Matters arising</i> Min 3.1 Targeting young people. In its review of all recruiting activity, the committee had decided that teenagers were a low priority target for recruitment. Min 3.1 <i>Rhythms of the World</i> . The committee had considered participation and, after consulting other groups who had been involved, had decided not to. Min 8.1 Shared evenings. One evening had been held with the intention of encouraging new callers. But there had been few volunteers and those were people who had called often before. The principle of encouraging new callers was supported, and alternative formats might be worth trying in future. There were no other matters arising.	
4	Chairman's report	
4.1	General Peter noted that the last year had been one of illness for many Rainmakers, most of whom he was glad to report were now well on the road to recovery. Adrian's death was a sad loss, and he had been a most loyal, hard working and committed club member. He would be much missed. Peter thanked the many people who had helped the club over the year, including Jill and other M/Cs, all the Committee (Richard as a super efficient Treasurer, Roger for leading on CDs and equipment, Julie for social activities, Belinda for publicity and recruitment, and Katka for organising callers), Graham, Mark, Dick, Betty, Maria, as well as all the many other members who had helped.	
4.2	Report on year Betty gave a report on the year's activities, a copy of which is available, and which was received with acclamation. Peter thanked Betty for her informative and entertaining report, which reminded members of the many happy times there had been over the last year.	
	Treasurer's report Richard introduced the accounts, which showed a deficit of income over expenditure of £450.67, as a result of the purchase of the new Coomber and other equipment for £509.09. In response to a question, Richard explained that Note 7, which had been omitted in error, should have referred to the purchase of the Coomber, its case and CDs. There had been a loss on Friday evenings. Working capital and cash were down. It was proposed by Belinda, seconded by Diana, that the report of the accounts be accepted. The motion was accepted unanimously.	
6	Annual and weekly subscriptions Peter reported that the committee recommended that annual subscriptions should remain unchanged. But in view of the loss on Friday nights (because of lower numbers), and that the hall fee had not increased for some years (presently £9 per hour), an increase of weekly subscriptions to £1.50 was recommended. Peter formally proposed the motion that weekly subscriptions be increased to £1.50, seconded by Richard, and the motion was passed unanimously.	
7	Appointment of Independent Examiner Richard proposed, and Graham seconded, that Bill Thorne was appointed for a further year, and this was approved unanimously. Richard had thanked Bill.	
8	Election of new Committee	

	<p>Peter reported that nominations, properly seconded, had been received as follows: Chairman Peter, Treasurer Richard, Committee: Belinda, Julie, and Roger. He invited further nominations, but none was forthcoming. Richard expressed his longstanding concern about workload on such a small committee, and Peter commented that the committee had been very effective over the last year. Katka offered to continue, from outside the committee, to arrange reserve Friday callers.</p> <p>Isabel proposed, and Katka seconded, that all those nominated should be elected <i>en bloc</i>, and that the Committee should appoint one or more of its members to carry out the functions of Secretary. The motion was approved unanimously.</p> <p>Richard asked that the meeting approve Belinda as a cheque signatory to replace Adrian. This was agreed.</p>	
9	Any other business	
9.1	<p>Cliff Beck</p> <p>Peter reported that Roy Clarke had offered to bring Cliff to Rainmakers to play his accordion next week. Would the club welcome him coming, and would there be enough people present to make it worthwhile for him? Cliff specialised in the older German and Austrian repertoire and Jill felt the club would enjoy having him. Live music added to the evening and it was agreed that we would be pleased to see Cliff.</p>	
9.2	<p>Recruitment</p> <p>Peter raised this item as the major issue facing the club. He reported the actions taken by the committee and noted that some 8 newcomers had attended the beginners evenings in September. But we seemed to have perhaps only one long term recruit. We now had a web site and the Appalachian Cloggers were demonstrating at the Christmas party. We publicised our activities regularly to other dance clubs.</p> <p>Graham said that all other dance clubs were facing the same difficulty, though Claire reported that Letchworth Scottish dance group were growing. They were welcoming and patient with new members and the programme would be changed at short notice – both done at Rainmakers.</p> <p>The new committee would action publicity in the Comet, Spotlight (though we need to have suitable special events), and libraries. It was suggested we should ask other dance clubs to special evenings, though this had not been especially successful in the past. Another approach was to offer demonstrations to dances run by others.</p> <p>Richard suggested that we should open the club to under 16s. The committee had exercised its discretion in one case recently, but Peter did not think it right to change our constitution.</p> <p>Katka and others suggested a more active publicity effort at both folk and non-folk dance clubs, the latter a new approach. We should provide literature for Scottish, Appalachian, tango, salsa and for any other club we had access to.</p> <p>It was suggested that we should aim to run an evening class as a feeder to Rainmakers. This would address the ability gap faced by many newcomers.</p> <p>Peter concluded discussion by saying that the new committee would consider all suggestions made and take appropriate action.</p>	<p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p> <p>Committee</p>
9.3	<p>Recording of CDs</p> <p>Henry, on behalf of the club, acknowledged, with thanks, the huge effort by Roger in transferring our collection of tapes to CD.</p>	
9.4	<p>Donation by the club to Alzheimer's Society</p> <p>Richard reported that the donation in memory of Adrian would substantially exceed £100.</p>	
9.5	<p>Fees</p> <p>Richard stated that, as was usual, no fees would be charged that evening.</p>	
10	<p>Closure</p> <p>There being no other business, Peter closed the meeting at 9.10 pm.</p>	

Notes attaching to and forming part of the accounts

1. 42 weeks with an average attendance of just over 14¾ down by 1¼ per week
2. 24 people attended.
3. 26 people attended all day and 5 for half a day
4. 30 members – down 1.
5. As an Associated Club of SIFD we no longer pay an annual subscription or Public Liability insurance, saving us over £50.

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 *October 5th 2005*

<u>2003/2004</u>		<u>2004/2005</u>
1386.35	Income	1403.95
1837.02	Net Expenditure	1389.47
-----		-----
(450.67)	Excess of income over expenditure	14.48
1565.75	Balance brought forward	1115.08
-----		-----
1115.08	Balance carried forward	1129.56
-----		-----
59.76	Cash in hand	56.19
1055.32	Bank	1073.37
-----		-----
1115.08		1129.56
-----		-----

Equipment Fund (included in the bank balance) (see note 7)

586.93	Balance brought forward	205.85
128.01	Events Profit	28.67
-----		-----
714.94		234.52
509.09	Purchases	-
-----		-----
205.85	Balance carried forward	234.52
-----		-----
1115.08	Balance	1129.56
205.85	Equipment Fund	234.52
-----		-----
909.23	Working Capital	895.04
-----		-----

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME

<u>2003/2004</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>		<u>2004/2005</u>
376.20	Weekly subscriptions (1)	902.00	
76.00	Friday workshop	-	
41.10	Collection for presents etc	86.80	
27.00	Donation (Isabel - hall for party)	-	
			988.80

	<u>EVENTS</u>		
140.00	Anniversary dance (2)	120.00	
126.65	Day course (3)	204.00	
5.00	Donations	-	324.00

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
93.00	Annual subscriptions (4)	90.00	
1.40	Interest	1.15	
			91.15

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1386.35			1403.95

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31 August 2005

EXPENDITURE

<u>2003/2004</u>	<u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u>		<u>2004/2005</u>
855.00	Hire of Hall	765.00	
22.91	Squash	7.88	
40.00	Caller's etc expenses	-	
-	CD's	4.99	
-	Miscellaneous catering expenses	17.59	
9.00	Set and Turn a Single	9.00	
30.00	Adverts	15.00	
-	Tambourine	4.25	
-	Alzheimer's Disease Society	110.00	
86.55	Flowers, presents and cards	90.48	
9.77	Miscellaneous	12.99	1037.18

	<u>EVENTS</u>		
70.00	Anniversary dance	134.35	
73.64	Day course	120.98	
-	Hall rehearsals for Jill's party	40.00	295.33

	<u>ADMINISTRATION</u>		
-	SIFD affiliation fee (5)	-	
87.96	Insurance (5)	42.64	
16.07	Postage	0.82	
3.00	Ehone	6.00	
22.24	Stationery etc.	7.50	
1.79	Scrapbook	-	56.96

	<u>EQUIPMENT</u>		
509.09	New Coomber, case and CD's	-	

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1837.02			1389.47
(450.67)	Excess of income over expenditure		14.48
-----			-----
1386.35			1403.95