

THE RAINMAKERS` SCRAPBOOK VOLUME 29

January 2023 – December 2023



The front page pictures show the Memorial Bench and Oak Tree at Gosmore Green.

The lower two pictures are in memory of Richard Thom –

Roundabouts Day of Dance July 1987 Stevenage Town Centre (Isabel and Graham, Janet and Sheila, Jill and Richard, Maria and Marjory)

The Hitchin Gathering March 1991 Scandinavian costumes (Helen, Isabel, Henry, Julie, Richard, Terry, Graham, Belinda)

Happy New Year 2023!

Dancing commenced with a small group gathering on New Year`s Day at Jill and Peter`s to dance in their conservatory. Also present were Daksha and Phil, joined by Lyndsey and Terry from Danse Herts.

Our first indoor meeting of 2023 was on Friday 6th January at the Wilbury Hall. We are also continuing to gather on Gosmore Green at 11am for two hours of dancing. It is hard to believe that we started meeting at Gosmore on Saturday 18th July 2020 during the COVID pandemic. The Club now has official permission from Gosmore Parish Council to dance there on Sundays between 11am and 1pm. Numbers vary, but it can be more than ten dancers meeting to dance and watch the red kites flying overhead!

However, the first Sunday of the year was abandoned on the Green due to heavy rain. A very dry winter allowed us to meet on the Green every Sunday until the end of March when a very wet morning had five dancers (Jean, Maria, Alan, Cup and Kim) joining Jill and Peter to dance in their conservatory.

Digitisation of the Scrapbook Archive

One of the suggestions for spending some of Betty`s legacy was to digitise the Club`s Scrapbook Archive, which had been maintained by Betty. The Committee arranged for a company in Hertford to carry out the work for us. This is the email sent to scanning companies for quotes, followed by the reply from ADS who got the contract.

Subject: Document Scanning

Good Morning

I am contacting you on behalf of Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group. We are a small dance group based in Hertfordshire, and have been performing for 46 years. Over this time we have collected an archive of our activities. This is in the form of 28 volumes of A4 folders containing a variety of photographs, handwritten pages and performance programmes, making approximately 5,000 pages.

We would like to preserve our material and make it more easily available by having it scanned and then making the archive available on our website.

Please could you send me a quote for this to

Many thanks

Maria Kerr

Customer Quotation

Date: 24/10/2022

Project: 221002 *Delivered, Stored, Off-site Scanning in OCR (searchable)pdf with return of magazines once scanned.*

Customer: *Rainmakers International Dance Group Hertfordshire*

Contact: *Maria Kerr*

Email :

Dear Maria,

Further to your enquiry last week, I have pleasure in quoting for the scanning of your historic program booklets and documents in a pdf OCR format which are currently in your possession.

Description: *Scanning of using a non-destructive book scanner OCR pdf files. Scan and return of your documents.*

Collect, Store, Prepare, Scan and return documents from approx. 5,000.00 sheets.

This quantity is made from an estimated number of approx. 20 x program booklets and documents in ring binders.

Scans will be carried out in B&W, and colour to 300 dpi. Multi page Pdf files in OCR (searchable) format.

Nearly all the sheets are of mainly A4 and A5 documents and these will be scanned and transferred to a USB memory/flash drive stick.

Pricing as follows:

OCR Scanning of Archived historic magazines and return of literature fully assembled.

Price. B&W scan cost: £0.12 per scan/sheets

Colour scans cost £0.15 per scan/sheet.

Approx total Cost £638.00 (please understand this is an approximate cost as we don't know the exact qty of scans/sheets until they have been scanned.)

Price excludes VAT.

Detailed below is the work which ADS will perform and is fully INCLUDED in the price:

A) Your programs and documents (as listed above.) to be collected by ADS from your Hertfordshire location.

B) Staff in our secure units will set up our pre-scanning preparation.

C) ADS will store the documents free of charge while the scanning is being carried out.

D) Scanning of the A4 and A5 program booklets documents, in single sided format, in B/W to multi-page PDF files in 300 dpi to an OCR format using a non-destructive book scanner.

E) Indexed as required using the index currently used on the files and agreed with Maria.

F) All scanning is personally supervised, edited to remove skewing, shadows, and background blemishes where possible.

G) Burning of electronic data onto a USB flash memory drive or storage medium of your choice.

Our price also includes: The return of your documents once scanned.

Time scales: 1 working week.

Project Time scale: ADS has the capacity to start this project within the next 2 weeks if required.

Retrieval Costs: £8.00 per file once e-mailed.

Turnaround time: A maximum 24 hrs

NO automatic scanning is carried out, **ALL** our scanning is manned at **ALL** times, to ensure our quality meets its targets and your files are correctly and accurately scanned.

All ADS Ltd work is carried out in accordance with British Standard PD0008. ADS Ltd is registered with the Information Commissioners Office, registration number Z1700425 and hence complies fully with the Data Protection Act 1998. All ADS work complies to the GDPR regulations.

The project will be started upon signing of the ADS Ltd conditions of Service Agreement contract and a non-disclosure agreement.

Please note, any change in volume will affect the costs quoted above. Please also note, this quote is accurate from the information we have been given.

Maria, I hope you find this quotation to your satisfaction, but if you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours Sincerely

Clive Watkins

Archive & Document Scanning Ltd

Tel: ++44 1992 511080

Mobile; 07545412551 or 07802 275908

E-mail; clive.watkins@archivedocscan.com

URL; www.archivedocscan.com and www.adscanning.co.uk

The 19 folders were dropped off on Wednesday 18th January for the scanning work to be done. Three weeks later, on Thursday 9th February, the folders were collected along with the USB stick that now contains the Club Archive. The originals have been returned to Jill and Peter`s loft for safe storage.

The Archive is now on the Club website, thanks to Roger. So all members can now look back at the Club history.

The Rainmaker`s Memorial Oak Tree

Another suggestion for the Club to spend The Legacy was to plant a memorial tree. This would allow the Club to both remember Betty and Henry and contribute to the local area. After much discussion, it was decided to plant the tree on Gosmore Green. Although there is no connection between the Green and Betty and Henry, we have been dancing on the Green on Sundays during the pandemic and are continuing to do so.

We had to have permission from Gosmore Parish Council for this, so Mark was busy organising this, over several months, with the Council. The result was an oak sapling being planted. We used their recommended supplier who also planted the tree.

Oak Tree Gosmore Green

Hi Maria

I have confirmation from Arborcare that they will be planting the tree on Gosmore Green on Monday 3rd April at 3pm. (It should take approximately 30 minutes to plant.)

Patti and I intend to be there. Would you like to be there as well?

Regards

Mark

On a very sunny Monday, 3rd April, Patti, Mark, Alan and Maria met at Gosmore Green. Jill and Peter were visiting family in Australia. The occasion was the planting of an oak tree in memory of Betty and Henry Lee. The following photographs show the sapling being planted.

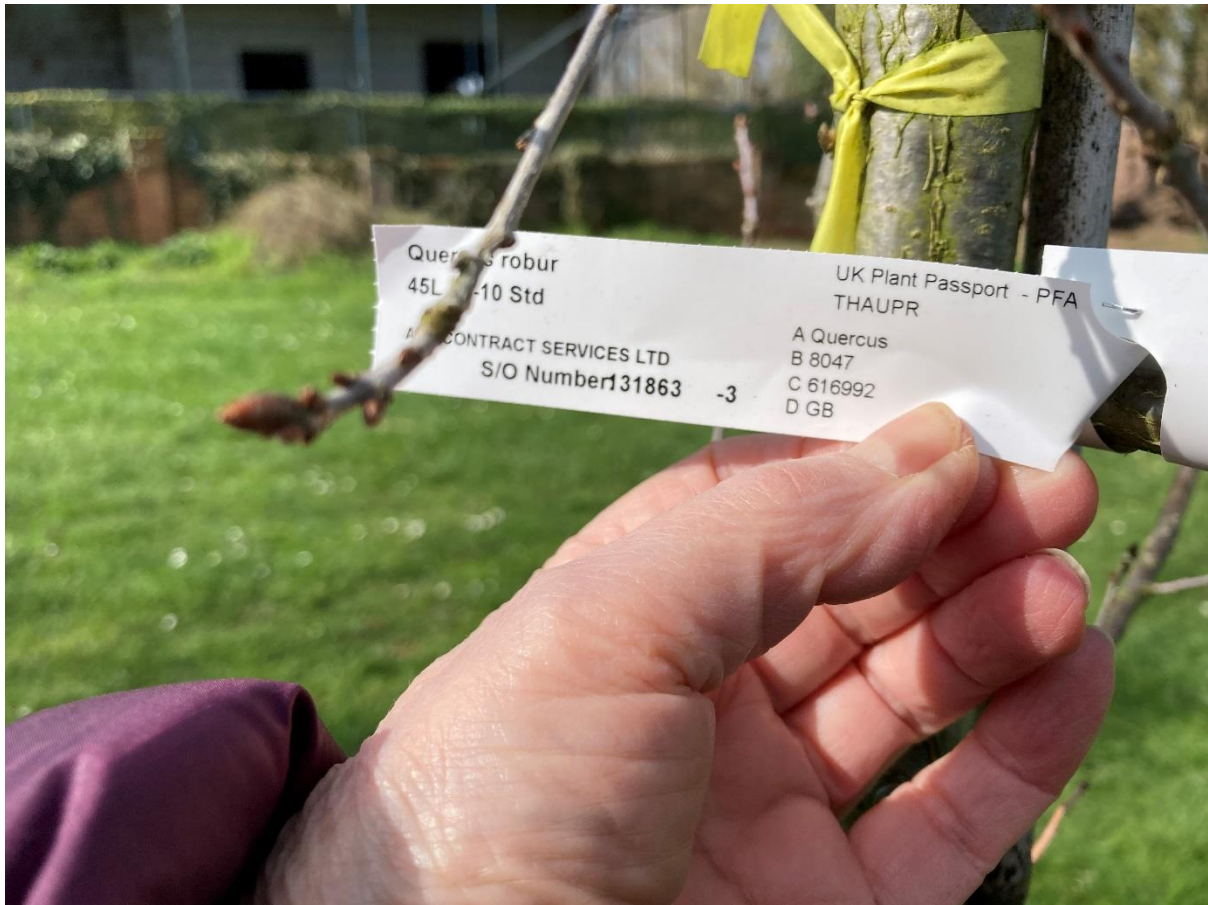












The next stage is to have a bench placed beside the tree. Again, the Parish Council has been consulted, so hopefully by summer the Club will have a bench, with a plaque suitably inscribed, installed on the Green.

From: Mark

Date: 16 April 2023 at 16:14:29 BST

To: Rainmakers

Subject: *Betty & Henry's Memorial Tree on Gosmore Green*

Hi All

For those of you who have not yet seen the English Oak tree on Gosmore Green, please find attached photograph.

The tree was successfully planted on Monday 3rd April.

Regards

Mark



Jill's Birthday

In April, Jill celebrated her 80th birthday. Jill and Peter were visiting their family in Australia. On their return, Rainmakers presented Jill with a rose, appropriately called 'Many Happy Returns'.



4th June 23 The Rainmakers` Oak Tree in leaf. Members are watering it on Sunday mornings



18/6/23 A Gosmore resident who watches us dancing!



The Rainmakers`Bench

From: mark

Date: 3 July 2023 at 17:25:40 BST

To: Maria

Subject: Gosmore Green tomorrow

Hi Maria

Unfortunately, everything is still undecided.

The bench has arrived but not with the fixings that Steve requires to fit it.

Glasdon cannot deliver the correct ones by tomorrow.

Steve will be going to B & Q to try and find some fixings he can use, as his timetable requires it to be installed tomorrow.

He is still very vague on times. If I get any more information tonight, I will let you know.

Patti intends to be present as well.

It might have to be that Patti phones you tomorrow when we know the timing.

Regards

Mark

Patti and Maria met at Gosmore Green on 4th July for the installing of the Rainmaker`s Bench.

The photographs show the Parish Council handyman and his son placing the bench on the Green alongside the oak tree.









The bench and oak tree – the next step is to get a plaque engraved to go on the bench.

Sunday 16/7/23 Members relaxing on the Club`s bench during our dance session



DANCE AROUND THE WORLD 2023

From: Jill Bransby

Date: 27 June 2023 at 12:59:12 BST

To: Martin Butler , Adrian Boddy , Wendy Harrup **Cc:** Maria Kerr , Alan Trangmar

Subject: Dance Around the World

Very sad. Jill

From: Stella Wentworth

Sent: Sunday, June 25, 2023 10:46 PM

To: Adrian Boddy **Cc:** Martin Butler ; Wendy Harrup ; Bransby ; Barbara Mohrle

Subject: Re: Dance Around the World

I have enjoyed being an honorary member of Cloudburst for the DATW Anglo-International dance in recent years. Thank you all for allowing me to join you. I will miss this annual opportunity to play with such a talented bunch of musicians.

I too am very sad that this amazing event is being curtailed prematurely by the venue management. It has been the most inspiring, energetic and culturally diverse dance and music festival I've attended over the years, and must surely have one of the widest age ranges in terms of performers which in itself was heartwarming and inspiring. Long live the memories.

Stella

On Fri, 23 Jun 2023, 12:53 Adrian Boddy, wrote:

This is such sad news.

Adrian

On 23 June 2023 at 12:26 Martin Butler wrote:

Dear all,

I've received the following email from Anne Leach

Dear Martin,

Thank you again for agreeing to play at Dance Around The World this year. Sadly, since we last chatted about the festival, the management at Cecil Sharp House has let us know that the festival will not be accommodated in the venue, this year. It seems that the 2022 festival was, in fact, the last.

We are very disappointed, of course. It has been a privilege to be involved in working with so many truly exceptional dancers and musicians. We cannot thank you and Cloudburst enough for all your support over the years. The festival was really created by dancers and musicians who, like you, so generously donated their time, expertise and, of course, friendship.

We're looking forward to seeing you again soon. Can't wait to dance to your music again.

With warmest wishes,

Anne

MEMORIAL BENCH

From: mark

Date: 17 June 2023 at 16:58:02 BST

To: Rainmakers

Subject: Memorial Plaque

Hi All,

We need to decide on the wording for Betty & Henry's plaque to be installed on the memorial bench on Gosmore Green.

Maria has come up with the following two suggestions.

Would you please have a read and email me back your thoughts on these two suggestions and any ideas you may have yourselves.

a.) This bench and oak tree have been donated in memory of Betty & Henry Lee by Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group.

b.) Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group have donated this bench and oak tree in memory of Betty and Henry Lee, two of the founder members of the Group.

Regards

Mark

The second option was selected, but changing 'founder' to 'longstanding', and a bronze plaque was engraved. Mark fitted the plaque to the bench on Sunday 22nd July. Thank you Mark.



From: mark

Date: 5 June 2023 at 19:22:01 BST

To: Raimakers

Subject: Rainmakers Dates

Hi all

End of Term Party: Friday 21st July 2023 8-10.30pm (please bring plate of food to share and your own drink)

A picnic on Gosmore Green will take place either on Sunday 16th or 23rd July 2023 (date to be confirmed nearer the time)

Rainmakers to start back on Friday 1st September 2023

Regards

Mark

From: Jill Bransby

Date: 21 July 2023 at 16:00:26 BST

To: Alan Trangmar , Maria Kerr , Martin Butler

Subject: Tonight's programme

Dear All,

This is a genuine request list. I have placed names next to some of the dances that Alan and Maria might like to call. Martin I don't know which tunes you would like to play. Martin you choose as we go along. Peter has put the music for all of these on a play list.

Daksha has invited a couple of friends. We will clearly make them welcome but I think there are a lot of dances that they will not be able to manage. However, simple dances like Hora Veche, Stenka and Macedonska might be doable.

See you later! Jill

There were 21 dancers at the party, which included five guests (Janet, Martin, Adrian and John and a friend of Daksha's).

Rainmakers Summer Party July 21, 2023

| | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| Branle Maitre de la Maison | (France) |
| Nikolos | (Greece) |
| Cobankat | (Albania) (Alan) |
| Salty Dog Rag | (USA) |
| Balada Lama'ayan | (Israel) (Alan) |
| Ta'am Haman | (Israel) (Maria) |
| Syen Tu | (China) |
| Posadila Rosu | (Russia) |
| Jota Mallorquina | (Mallorca) |
| Hora Veche | (Romania) (Alan) |
| Stenka | (Russia) |
| Rododachtilos Avgi Mou | (Greece) |
| Reiach Duda'im | (Israel) |
| Hora Femeilor | (Romania) (Alan) |
| Steiregger | (Austria) (Maria) |
| Sissu et Yerushalayim | (Israel) |
| Makedonska | (Macedonia) (Alan) |
| The Black Nag | (England) |
| Hoi Harmonica | (Israel) (Maria) |
| Stepping Out | (USA) |
| Pirinska Pesen | (Bulgaria) (Alan) |
| Erev Ba | (Israel) |

Happy Holidays!

However, we won't stop dancing as we will continue to meet on Gosmore Green on Sunday mornings!

From: Jill Bransby
Date: 22 July 2023 at 17:58:18 BST
To: Sue Burnett
Cc: Maria Kerr , Mark Balaam
Subject: Henry and Betty

Hello Sue

We thought you would like to know that Rainmakers have donated a bench and an oak tree in memory of Henry and Betty. It is located on Gosmore Green where Rainmakers danced almost every Sunday morning during lock down, and we continue to dance there now.

The first photo shows three Rainmakers sitting on the bench, with the young oak tree in the background. The bench is shown in the second photo, with an enlarged image of the memorial plaque in the third photo (taken from the previous photo). The Parish Council specified the variety of tree and the design of the bench. Rainmakers have a real sense of ownership of both, and members watered the oak tree during the recent drought!

Please pass this information onto Phillip, Petra and Pam.

Best wishes

Jill and Peter



Pictures from the Picnic at Gosmore Green 23 July 2023

We gathered on Sunday 23rd July on Gosmore Green for a picnic to mark the start of the summer break. There were 11 dancers there. Pictures following.

Dancing continued on the Green through July and August. In spite of our name, every Sunday was dry between 11 and 1!!









Present on the Green for the summer picnic were Jill, Peter, Clare, Daksha, Kim, CUP, Patti, Mark, Jean, Maria, Sonia

Rainmakers started dancing indoors again on Friday 1st September. The Club`s Christmas Party on Friday 15th December ended 2023.

Dancing continued at Gosmore Green throughout a dry autumn until 17th December. The year ended with dancing in Jill and Peter`s conservatory on Christmas Eve.

Richard Stuart Thom 5th July 1953-16th October 2023

From: Peter Bransby

Date: 21 October 2023 at 14:50:03 BST

To: Maria Kerr, Mark Balaam

Subject: *Sad News*

John Cox phoned just now to give the sad news that Richard Thom died last Tuesday 17 October.

John had been informed by Sarah Jane, Richard's cousin (I think niece?) and details are sketchy. Apparently Richard had been going on a 4 month long bird watching trip to Australia, planning to return just before Christmas. John had received an email about a month ago from Richard saying that he had back problems following a 3 day drive on rough roads to a new bird watching site. Richard was taken to hospital and they found that he had cancer (Hodgkin lymphoma). He was flown back to the UK, losing consciousness, and taken to Hillingdon Hospital. He then caught Covid and had sepsis, which meant that his organs stopped working.

John will send me Sarah Jane's address, which I will forward, so we can send a card. No doubt other Rainmakers will wish to do likewise.

Sarah Jane will let John know about funeral arrangements, and he will pass the details on.

Jill and I were both shocked and saddened. Of course Richard was annoying and a bit odd, but he had a soft heart, he was very loyal, he cared and certainly added to the richness of the lives of his friends and to Rainmakers.

Peter

From: Peter Bransby
Date: 4 November 2023 at 11:11:47 GMT
To: Rainmakers
Cc:
Subject: Fw: Fwd: Richard's funeral

From: John Cox

Sent: Saturday, November 4, 2023 10:46 AM

To: Peter&Jill

Subject: Fwd: Richard's funeral

Date:Sat, 4 Nov 2023 10:44:08 +0000

From:John Cox

Dear Ann, Peter and Jill, Lynne

The details of Richard Thom's funeral are as follows.

Tuesday, November 28th, 1pm, at All Saints Church, The Oval, Stevenage SG1 5RD (this church is situated within the Oval Community Centre).

2pm, burial at Weston Road Cemetery, Stevenage SG1 3RP.

3 to 7pm, at the Cromwell Hotel, High Street, Stevenage Old Town SG1 3AZ

If attending the gathering after the burial, please let Richard's niece Sarah-Jane know, sarah8413@hotmail.com or 07881 484084.

Would you be so kind as to forward these details to anyone, including Staplers and Rainmakers, who you think may wish to have them. Thank you.

John

In Loving
MEMORY OF



Richard Stuart Thom

5th July 1953 - 16th October 2023

All Saints' Church, The Oval

Tuesday 28th November 2023
at 1.00 pm



Order
OF
SERVICE

Conducted by Reverend Peter Orton

Entrance Music
Childgrove

Welcome and Opening Prayer
Reverend Peter Orton

Hymn

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snares
I have already come:
'Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we'd first begun.

John Newton (1725-1807)

Tribute

on behalf of the family
read by Reverend Peter Orton

Poem

He Is Gone

Reading

read by Dan

Poem

The House

read by Katie and Reverend Peter Orton

Reading

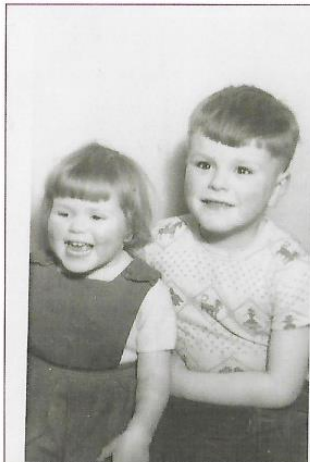
from Sarah-Jane

read by Reverend Peter Orton

Reading

from Becky

read by Reverend Peter Orton



Hymn

I danced in the morning when the world was begun,
And I danced in the moon and the stars and the sun,
And I came down from heaven and I danced on the earth,
At Bethlehem I had my birth.

*Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said He.*

I danced for the scribe and the Pharisee,
But they would not dance and they wouldn't follow me,
I danced for the fishermen, for James and John;
They came with me and the Dance went on.

I danced on a Friday when the sky turned black;
It's hard to dance with the devil on your back.
They buried my body and they thought I'd gone,
But I am the Dance and I still go on.

They cut me down and I leapt up high;
I am the life that'll never, never die;
I'll live in you if you'll live in me;
I am the Lord of the Dance, said He.

Sydney Bertram Carter (1915-2004)

Prayers

including

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
Thy Kingdom come;
Thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the Kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Commendation

Exit Music Sellinger's Round

*The committal will now take place at Weston Road Cemetery,
to which you are all welcome to attend.*





Thank you for attending the service today.
Your support at this sad time has been of great comfort to us all.

Following the service, you are welcome
to join the family for light refreshments at
The Cromwell, High Street, Stevenage SG1 3AZ.

Donations in memory of Richard for the
RSPB
may be sent direct to the charity or given to the family.

Austin's Funeral Directors
21 High Street, Stevenage, Hertfordshire SG1 3BG
Telephone: 01438 316623

Extract from SIFD News.

Richard Thom

We are sad to report the death of Richard Thom, who will have been known to many folk dancers for many years as the broker for the SIFD group insurance scheme. He was on a bird-watching holiday in Australia when he had an accident and went to hospital for a back injury, while he was there it was discovered he was already suffering from a kind of cancer. He was treated for that and flew home but on the flight his health became worse and he died on 16th October, from multiple causes.

He did English and International folk dance. At the Rainmakers international folk dance group in Letchworth, he enjoyed the Israeli circle dances but his preference was the couple dances, in particular Renningen, which as many readers of SIFD news will know is a Swedish weaving dance with a string of figures ending with a kind of procession. It calls for exactly 16 people, some of whom have specific roles in some of the figures, but Rainmakers was a big group in the 1980s and 90s and we danced it quite a lot.

If anybody wants to make a donation in his memory, his niece's suggestion is to the RSPB. The funeral directors are Austins Funeral Directors Stevenage; the funeral was on 28th November.

Alan Trangmar

≈

It was with great sadness that we heard that Richard had died at the relatively young age of 70.

Richard had been an enthusiastic member of Rainmakers for many years, and Treasurer, again for many years. He was a committed and loyal member, who wanted to be in the middle of things. Although he sometimes seemed like a big kid, underneath, he always wanted to help, he was very loyal, and he had a soft heart.

More recently, Richard only did English country dancing, mainly with the Roundabouts Dance Club at Stevenage, of which he was Treasurer. The last time we were on a dance floor with him was at their 50th Anniversary celebration, a happy occasion.

We think he added a great deal of liveliness and fun to Rainmakers, and viewed him with affection. We shall miss him.

Jill and Peter Bransby

Festival of Navratri

A small group of Rainmakers were invited by Daksha and Phil to dance at a Navratri Festival in Luton on Monday 23rd October. Jill, Kim, CUP, Maria, Alan, Agnieszka, Bob and Martin, appropriately dressed for the occasion, joined a large crowd of people in a beautifully decorated Hindu Temple for the festival, which lasts for nine days and nine nights. It is a celebration to the Goddess Durga, who fought for nine days to kill an evil demon. Thank you to Daksha and Phil for organising this.

Photographs from the Festival of Navratri



Maria and Alan



Maria, Kim and Martin



Anniversary Dance 3rd November 2023

Rainmakers

International Folk Dance Group

47th Anniversary Dance

MC Jill Bransby

Music by

Cloudburst

Friday 3 November, 2023

Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth,

Herts, SG6 4YF

7.30 to 10.30 pm. £10

*Please bring a plate of food to share and your
own drink and glass or mug*

Contact: 01462 457791 or 01462 454210

Rainmakers 47th Anniversary Dance, 3 November, 2023
With Cloudburst playing

Boanupstekker (Netherlands)
Branle Maitre de la Maison (France)
Mayim Mayim (Israel)
Bourree de la Chapelotte (France)
Le'or Chiyuchech (Israel)
Cine Are Noroc Are (R) (Roma)
Lludo Mlado (Bulgaria)
Zabaljela Dunina Galovka (Ukraine)
El Corrido (Mexico)
Hora Femeilor (Romania) (R) Alan
Fadinho Tres Tempos (Portugal)
~~La Vezi la Veson (France) (or Le Rond Argentonais?)~~
Ha'ora Haktana (Israel)
Jota Mallorquina (Mallorca)
Ajde Jano (Serbia)
Levi Jackson's Rag (USA)
Siriul (Romania)
Chassene (Israel)
Valle Shqiptare (R) (Albania) Alan
Marushka (Poland)
Joc Aroman (Romania)
~~Mari Mariko (Bulgaria) (Is Wendy coming? If not, Omit)~~
Salty Dog Rag (R) (USA)
Zemer Atik (Israel)
Rododachtilos Avgi Mou (Greece)
Mombar (Armenia) (R)

Spares:

Svornato (R) (Bulgaria) Alan
Valle Pogonishte (R) (Albania) Alan
Sirba din Cimpoi (Romania)
Dorset Four Hand Reel (England)
Siganos (R) (Greece) Alan
David Melech (R) (Israel)

R recorded music







Rainmakers were joined by Janet and John to dance at the Club`s 47th Anniversary Dance. Music was played by Cloudburst, on this occasion Martin, Adrian and Barbara.

Bulbs On Gosmore Green

Claire suggested planting bulbs around the Club bench. We obtained permission to do this from the Parish Council and on Sunday 29th October the bulbs were planted. We started dancing on the Green but heavy rain had us moving to the Bransby conservatory. However at 1.30 the rain stopped and the bulbs were planted – early flowering crocus and Snake`s Head Fritillary which will flower in May. Thank you to Clare for this suggestion and we are looking forward to seeing the bulbs emerge next February.







Dancing on Gosmore Green Sunday 19 November 2023





From: markbalaam

Date: 22 October 2023 at 14:41:01 BST

To: Mark Balaam

Subject: **Rainmakers AGM**

Hi All

Rainmakers AGM will be held on Friday 24th November 2023 at Wilbury Hall.

Hopefully there will be some dancing after the completion of the AGM.

Agenda and papers for the AGM will follow.

Regards

Mark

From: markbalaam

Date: 15 November 2023 at 16:46:50 GMT

To: Mark Balaam

Subject: **RM AGM Friday 24th November 2023**

Hi All

Please find attached Agenda, Accounts and last year's AGM Minutes.

Regards

Mark

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

Annual General Meeting

Friday 24th November 2023 at 8pm at

Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth

AGENDA

1. Welcome and opening remarks
2. Apologies for absence
3. Minutes of last AGM held on 25th November 2022
4. Matters Arising
5. Chairman's Remarks and Report on Year
6. Treasurer's Report
7. Subscriptions
8. Appointment of Independent Examiner
9. Election of new Committee
10. Betty's Legacy
11. Any Other Business

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31st August 2023

INCOME

| <u>2021/22</u> | <u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u> | <u>2022/23</u> | |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------|--------|
| 700.10 | Weekly Subscriptions (1) | - | |
| 100.00 | Christmas card charity collection | 60.00 | |
| <u>250.00</u> | Donations | <u>-</u> | |
| | 1,050.10 | | 60.00 |
| | | | |
| | <u>EVENTS</u> | | |
| 190.00 | Anniversary Dance (2) | 180.00 | |
| - | Day Course/Evening Course (3) | - | |
| - | Special Evenings - Memorial Dance(4) | - | |
| <u>-</u> | Displays | <u>-</u> | |
| | 190.00 | | 180.00 |
| | | | |
| | <u>SUNDRY</u> | | |
| 23,578.38 | Betty's Bequest | <u>-</u> | |
| <u>-</u> | | <u>-</u> | |
| | 23,578.38 | | - |
| | | | |
| | <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> | | |
| 100.00 | Annual Subscriptions (5) | 90.00 | |
| <u>1.12</u> | Interest Business Premium Account | 95.04 | |
| | 101.12 | | 185.04 |
| | | | |
| | <u>24,919.60</u> | <u>425.04</u> | |
| | - | <u>4,318.07</u> | |
| | <u>24,919.60</u> | <u>4,743.11</u> | |

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

INCOME & EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the year ending 31st August 2023

EXPENDITURE

| <u>2021/22</u> | <u>FRIDAY NIGHTS</u> | <u>2022/23</u> |
|----------------|---|-------------------|
| 1,071.40 | Hire of Hall/Gosmore Green licence | 1,210.00 |
| 18.80 | Squash, etc. | - |
| 100.00 | Donations | 310.00 |
| <u>18.00</u> | Flowers, presents and cards | <u>25.83</u> |
| | 1,208.20 | 1,545.83 |
| | <u>EVENTS</u> | |
| 188.50 | Anniversary Dance (2 missed dances) | 190.00 |
| - | Day Course/Evening Course | - |
| - | Rehearsals for Greek display - hall hire | 33.50 |
| <u>184.00</u> | Special Evening - Refund re Memorial Dance | <u>100.00 (4)</u> |
| | 372.50 | 123.50 |
| | <u>BETTY'S MEMORIAL PROJECTS</u> | |
| - | Scanning scrapbooks | 774.77 |
| - | Memorial dance | 311.97 |
| - | Oak tree | 595.98 |
| <u>-</u> | Memorial bench | <u>1266.67</u> |
| | - | 2,949.39 |
| | <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> | |
| - | Website | 100.64 |
| 11.00 | Insurance | - |
| 6.23 | Admin/Postage/Printing/Stationery | 23.75 |
| <u>-</u> | Sundry | <u>-</u> |
| | 17.23 | 124.39 |
| | <u>EQUIPMENT</u> | |
| 179.48 | Samsung Galaxy tablet & case | - |
| <u>-</u> | PAT testing | <u>-</u> |
| | 179.48 | - |
| | <u>1,777.41</u> | <u>4,743.11</u> |
| | 23,142.19 Excess of income over expenditure | - |
| | <u>24,919.60</u> | <u>4,743.11</u> |

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

ACCOUNTS for the year ending 31st August 2023

| <u>2021/22</u> | | <u>2022/23</u> |
|------------------|--|------------------|
| 24,919.60 | Income | 425.04 |
| <u>1,777.41</u> | Net Expenditure (including projects) | <u>4,743.11</u> |
| 23,142.19 | Excess of income over expenditure | - 4,318.07 |
| <u>3,267.42</u> | Balance brought forward | <u>26,409.61</u> |
| <u>26,409.61</u> | Balance carried forward | <u>22,091.54</u> |
| 23,579.50 | Business Premium Account @ 31st August | 20,725.15 |
| 267.81 | Cash in hand @ 31st August | 207.92 |
| 2,741.78 | Bank Current A/c balance @ 31st August | 1,158.47 |
| <u>(179.48)</u> | Cheques included but not cleared | <u>-</u> |
| <u>26,409.61</u> | Balance carried forward | <u>22,091.54</u> |
| | <u>Equipment Fund</u> (included in the bank balance) | |
| 1,252.34 | Equipment Fund Balance brought forward | 1,074.36 |
| 1.50 | Events Profit/Loss | 56.50 |
| <u>1,253.84</u> | (Incl. refund of £100 from 2021/22) | <u>1,130.86</u> |
| 179.48 | Samsung Galaxy & case | - |
| - | Repairs | - |
| <u>-</u> | PAT testing (6) | <u>-</u> |
| <u>1,074.36</u> | Equipment Fund Balance carried forward | <u>1,130.86</u> |
| 26,409.61 | Accounts Balance brought forward | 22,091.54 |
| <u>1,074.36</u> | Equipment Fund | <u>1,130.86</u> |
| <u>25,335.25</u> | Working Capital | <u>20,960.68</u> |

RAINMAKERS INTERNATIONAL FOLK DANCE GROUP

ACCOUNTS for the Year ending 31st August 2023

Notes attaching to and forming part of the Accounts

- 1 39 free weeks with an average attendance of 13.07
- 2 18 people attended @ £10.00 each - Anniversary Dance
- 3 No evening courses
- 4 Betty's Memorial Dance - prepayment of £184 paid last year
Refund received this year
21 people attended - no charge
- 5 19 Paid-up members (plus one life member)

Independent Examiner's Report

I have examined the Accounts and confirm that they are a true record of the financial activities of the Club.

R. K. Lowes.

ROGER LOWES

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER

Dated 28/10/2023

Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group

Minutes of AGM held at 8.05pm on 25th November 2022 at The Wilbury Hall, Bedford Road, Letchworth

1 Welcome and opening remarks

Maria welcomed those attending. Twelve members attended. Their names were recorded and a quorum was present.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Kim & CUP, Belinda, Jean, Helen & Barry.

3 Minutes of last AGM held on 10th December 2021

The minutes were accepted unanimously.

4 Matters arising.

4.1 Min 4.4: Maria said that the Coomber has now been replaced with a tablet computer. The purchase of a speaker is still outstanding.

4.2 Min 5: Dancing on Gosmore Green has continued.

4.3 Min 7: We have received all the money from Betty's legacy. Annual subscriptions were collected in January. Weekly subscriptions are not being charged on normal evenings. There was a charge for the Anniversary Dance to cover the cost of the band.

4.4 Min 11.a: Maria said that Betty's legacy would be covered under a separate agenda item.

4.5 Min 11.b: Maria said that she had not managed to take the photographs of the men's costumes yet and that is still ongoing.

4.6 Min 11.e: Maria confirmed that we have re-applied and obtained a further licence for dancing on Gosmore Green.

5 Chairman's Remarks and Report on the Year

Maria said that, compared with previous recent years we have done a few more things this year. Starting after the AGM last year, which was in December, we had a lunch on Gosmore Green after dancing on 12th December, we had a party night on 17th December, then on 10th December we had tried again to have lunch on Gosmore Green, but ended up in Jill & Peter's conservatory.

We started dancing again on 7th January this year. We had our Missed Anniversaries Dance (44th and 45th) on 10th June. On 11th July we joined Letchworth Arts & Leisure Guild's 35th Anniversary where 10 members danced to recorded music on Leys Avenue. T-shirts were worn rather than costumes. This was the first time we had danced in public for several years.

The term finished on 15th July 2022. On 17th & 24th July we picnicked on Gosmore Green. On 2nd September we resumed Friday night dancing. We were aiming to have the 46th Anniversary Dance on Friday 9th September. We had to postpone the dance at very short notice, due to the death of the Queen and the Church needing to use the hall for a memorial service. On Saturday 24th September seven Rainmakers did a Greek display, including join-in, for Janet Chapman for her 80th birthday party in front of about 100 people. This was our first display for four years. Dance Around the World happened twice this year – one in March and this year's one in October. Jill and Cloudburst played at the Sunday dance.

On Friday 4th November we held our postponed 46th Anniversary Dance, at which Barbara and Martin played. On Saturday 19th November Henry & Betty's Memorial Dance was held at Ickleford

Village Hall. We had the full Cloudburst band. We didn't have as many former members as we had hoped, but we had an enjoyable evening.

6 Treasurer's Report

Patti presented the Accounts for the year and asked if anyone had any questions.

Peter asked if the deposit account had been easy to set up and if we got a good interest rate. Patti said that it had not been easy to set up due to having to have multiple signatures. Peter asked if we were aware of CAF Bank, which is a charity, designed to deal with charities. Peter said that the SIFD use them.

Maria said that the only bank accounts we can get as a Club are business accounts, which pay less interest than a personal account. Peter said that he could not find if CAF did a savings account. It was decided that the new committee will look into this.

Peter asked what percentage interest we get on the savings account. Patti said that she did not know the percentage off-hand but that last quarter we got £6.00.

Maria proposed acceptance of the Accounts. Peter seconded and the Accounts were accepted unanimously.

7 Subscriptions

Maria said that the Committee have discussed this and are recommending that the Annual subscription stays the same at £5.00 and also that the Weekly subscriptions are not charged for the coming year, with the exception of specific events that require the hire of a band. Maria said that the cost last year for not charging the weekly subscriptions was approximately £1000.

Peter said that this was a very good idea, but he felt that we should be slightly cautious that it is not seen as members benefitting financially from the bequest, which would be frowned upon if we were a charity. Patti said that the bequest was for the members. Peter felt that the bequest should be used more to take forward the objectives of the Club. Dick made the point that we are still paying an Annual subscription.

There was a lot of discussion on this subject. Various suggestions were put forward, including raising the Annual subscription.

Alan said that not charging weekly subscriptions is a good way of attracting new members. Mark said that the Committee are not proposing the non-charging of weekly subscriptions to carry on indefinitely and, with the current cost of living crisis it is a good way of getting people to attend Rainmakers regularly. Mark also made the point that the Committee would monitor this, as the likelihood is that the hall hire will increase and, at the point that the Committee felt that charging became necessary, we would put it back to the membership.

After discussion it was decided on three possible options – 1. to not charge weekly subscriptions for the coming year; 2. token charge of £1 per month, that would be paid as a lump sum, pro rata; 3. to go back to paying weekly subscriptions.

It was unanimously accepted not to charge weekly subscriptions for the coming year, which was felt to be a good way of encouraging attendance of existing members and also attracting new members.

Maria proposed that the Annual subscription should stay at £5.00. This was seconded by Mark and was accepted unanimously.

8 Appointment of Independent Examiner

Roger had said that he was happy to continue as the independent examiner. Roger was appointed independent examiner.

9 Election of New Committee

Maria said that a nomination sheet had been put out and asked if there was anyone who wished to stand as an officer or a member of the Committee.

The nomination sheet was filled in as follows:

| | | | | | |
|-----------|-------|----------|-------|----------|-------|
| Chairman | Maria | Proposed | Patti | Seconded | Peter |
| Treasurer | Patti | Proposed | Alan | Seconded | Maria |
| Secretary | Mark | Proposed | Jill | Seconded | Diana |
| Committee | Alan | Proposed | Mark | Seconded | Peter |

Maria proposed the voting of the new Committee en masse. The new Committee nominations were agreed unanimously.

Maria said that we would continue to send copies of Committee meeting minutes to Jill.

10 Betty's Legacy

Maria said that she had sent out an email showing how we had progressed the 14 suggestions that we have received after last year's AGM.

- a) We have not paid weekly subscriptions for the last year and will continue for the coming year.
- b) Digitising the archive – there was some discussion as to which company quotation to go with. There was a preference for a Hertford-based company, who had quoted approximately £638.00. It was decided to let the Committee have the final decision.
- c) Memorial Dance, which took place on 19th November 2022.
- d) Proposed donation to Dance Around the World. Contact was made with Anne Leach. However, no request for money has been received.
- e) Publication of a Rainmakers book. This will be easier once the scrapbooks have been digitised and therefore is on hold at the moment.
- f) Planting of a tree on Gosmore Green. Maria had looked into this in relation to the Queen's Jubilee and found that they were looking for people to plant trees (which were handed out free of charge) rather than supply money. Maria said that, if we do plant a tree on Gosmore Green, it can be registered as part of the Queen's Canopy. Two new trees had recently been planted on Gosmore Green – we have obtained a quotation for a like-for-like tree, which would cost approximately £255.00 + VAT. If this went ahead, the planting would depend on which time of year would be best for it to be done. It was agreed unanimously to go ahead with this..
- g) Memorial bench on Gosmore Green. We have obtained permission in principle from the Parish Council in relation to planting a tree and/or installing a memorial bench. The Parish Council would have the final say on the location of either of these options. Quotations for a bench depend on the type of base on which they are installed. A quotation for a 4ft bench was approximately £450.00 plus £175.00 installation. We would also need to pay for a plaque. It was agreed unanimously to go ahead with this.
- h) Promoting folk dance to younger people. Maria said that this was difficult as we do not have any direct contact with schools. It was suggested that it would be good to get teachers involved. There was some discussion about this whole topic. Maria asked people to have a think and come back with suggestions and possible points of contact after the meeting.

11 Any other Business

- a) Sonia asked what had happened to the Rainmakers banner which had been displayed on Gosmore Green. Unfortunately Sonia had raised this item under Treasurer's Report and it was not raised again under Any other Business and therefore was not discussed.
- b) Jill said that it appeared that there are some scrapbooks missing – 2012-13. When Betty was ill she was still trying to keep up the scrapbooks. Jill started in 2014. Maria said that she had some boxes and has 2015 and 2016. Jill asked if the plan was to scan the scrapbooks up to the present day. Maria confirmed that that was the intention. Jill said that she will stop doing the scrapbooks this Christmas and wondered if anyone else was willing to take on the job. There were no offers. It was suggested that from then on items could be added as digital records.
- c) Maria asked if we wanted to make our usual donations to Garden House Hospice in lieu of Christmas cards. It was agreed that we would do this.
- d) Maria said that Roger has now uploaded all old videos and DVDs of day courses and displays on to the website.

- e) Mark asked if people wanted the licence for dancing on Gosmore Green renewed. It was decided to renew the licence.
- f) CUP had said that the Morris Men, who use the same hall, did have use of a storage area. Mark had looked into this and the Hall would allow us to store some equipment for a fee yet to be set.
- g) Mark suggested that the new Committee could look into proposing changes to some of the wording of the Club's present constitution, as some of it is outdated language and biased towards males.
- h) Jill asked if the Committee intended to have an SIFD teacher next year. Maria said that the Committee can look into a Friday night or Saturday day course.
- i) Jill thanked the Committee for running the Club during a very difficult time. Maria thanked Jill and Alan, Mark and Patti. Patti thanked Maria.
- j) Alan said that Balkan Plus are planning to get Boiko in June next year for a Bulgarian day course, which will be the first London-based day course run for some time.

There being no other business, Maria closed the meeting at 9.02pm.



ST IPPOLYTS PARISH COUNCIL MAGAZINE 2023

It has been a wonderful 12 months in the Parish with lots and lots of events from the annual Hall fair and the Church Nativity Crib Festival last Autumn to Gosmore goes Coronation in the summer. It was also fabulous to see the return of the Football Club's Five A Side Tournament and also the St Ippolyts and Gosmore Open Gardens. The Parish really was buzzing!

In addition to all the events there has also been a spate of tree planting as the Parish took part in The Queen's Green Canopy – see if you can see them as you stroll around the Parish.



RAINMAKERS

Rainmakers are enjoying another year of dancing on Sunday mornings on Gosmore Green.

We would again like to thank St Ippolyts Parish Council and the residents for allowing us to dance on the Green.

You might have noticed a new oak tree and bench.

Rainmakers have paid for these to be installed in memory of two former members of our Group.

We are always looking for new members. For more information you can call Mark on 01462 454210.

Mark is Secretary of Rainmakers International Folk Dance Group.



THE PARISH GETS GREENER



Dell Field Queen's Canopy



Gosmore Green Queen's Canopy



Mill Rd



The fairies have been busy on Broadmeadow estate



Gosmore Green Rainmakers

From: markbalaam

Date: 16 November 2023 at 20:15:26 GMT

To: Mark Balaam

Subject: **RM Diary Dates**

Hi All

The End of Term party will be on Friday 15th December 2023 from 8pm to 10.30pm.

Please bring a plate of food to share.

*We will then **NOT MEET on the 22nd or 29th December.***

We will start back on Friday 5th January 2024.

Regards

Mark

Rainmakers Christmas Party December 15, 2023

Hashual (Israel) (Band)
Rododactilus Avgi Mou (Greece) (Band)
Lublin Waltz (Poland) (Band)
Valle e Lehte (Albania) (Alan)
Levi Jackson's Rag (USA) (Band)
Sabrali sa se Sabrali (Bulgaria) (Alan)
Simchat He' Amel (Israel)
Zagrodnik (Poland) (Band) (Maria)
El Corrido (Mexico) (Band)
Cine Are Noroc Are (Roma) (Alan & Jill)
Balada Lam'ayan (Israel) (Alan)
Joc de Leagane (Romania)
Bourree Tournante des Grande Potteries (France) (Band)
Ssulum Ya'Kov (Israel)
Shepherd's Delight (England) (Band)
Reiach Duda'im (Israel) [Mark and Patti](#)
Ajde Jano (Serbia) (Band) (Maria)
Fadinho Tres Tempos (Portugal) (Band)
Ta'am Haman (Israel) (Maria)
Dans Cu Sucitoare (Romania) (Alan & Jill)
Branle Maitre De La Masion (France) (Band)
Siriul (Romania)
Hora Mireseii (Romania) (Alan)
Makedonsko Devojce (Macedonia) (Band)
Mombar (Armenia)

Spares
Hora Cimpulunguli (Romania)
Shiri Li Kinneret (Israel)
Musica Nisherat (Israel)
Jota Antigua (Mallorca)
Der Steiregger (Austria)
The Black Nag (England)
David Melech (Israel)
Ivanitsa (Macedonia)
Mori Sej (Hugarian/Roma)
Cobankat (Albania)

Happy Christmas and Happy Dancing next year!

From: markbalaam

Date: 16 December 2023 at 14:01:54 GMT

To: Mark Balaam

Subject: Donation to Garden House Hospice in lieu of Christmas Cards

Hi Everyone

Congratulations - we managed to raise £115.00.

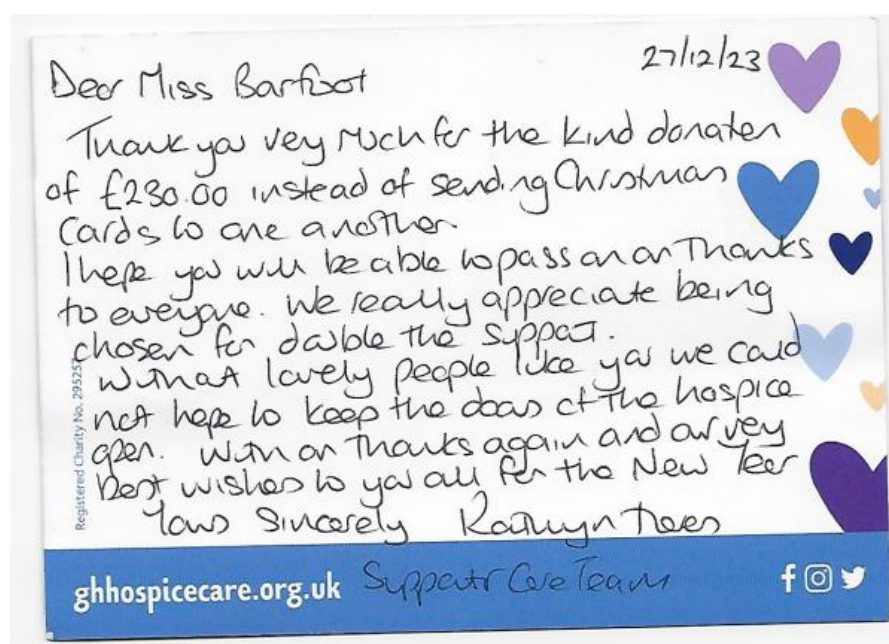
For those of you who were not present at the AGM, it was agreed by members that the Club would donate the same amount as that raised by members.

We will therefore be sending Garden House Hospice the sum of £230.00.

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Regards

Mark



At the Club`s AGM it was decided to make a donation to a local charity So in December a cheque for £500 was handed over to a food bank which is held once a month in St Thomas Church, Bedford Road.



Wishing you all a
Happy New Dancing Year!

To All the Rainmakers,
Thank you very much for your
generous Christmas tokens.
I look forward to spending
them on plants and painting
gear.

It is always a pleasure to
dance with the Rainmakers
so lets 'Keep Dancing'
in 2024.

Love from Jill