



**HIGH KICKER:** Angela Lindley of Hilfield in her Bluebell costume during a rehearsal in Paris in 1959. The Bluebell dancers were world renowned and Mrs Lindley danced with them for 18 months. Next month she will be on stage with the Yeovil Amateur Operatic Society in a production of *The Follies* by Stephen Sondheim.

# Pick of the Bluebells is back for kicks

by Adam Stones  
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THEY WERE the dancers everyone wanted to be, some of the highest paid in the world.

They had groups around the globe and touring troupes that wowed audiences across Europe, and only the best, the most elegant and the most determined made it.

For a Bluebell dancer, life was a glamorous, high-kicking party with its hub in Paris.

One of those who made the grade was Angela Lindley of Hilfield, between Sherborne and Dorchester, and she will be showing that at Westland in Yeovil and the couple moved to Dorset.

She has been involved in dance locally ever since but her most recent development is the one she says she is most pleased with.

"In 2000, I was asked to play a senior role in the National Youth Ballet. Having not been able to join when younger as too tall, rules have changed and this Christmas I will be doing my fourth production with them. I am very proud of that."

Next month she will join fellow members of YAOS at the Octagon Theatre in Yeovil for a production of *The Follies* by Stephen Sondheim.

"The follies is about a reunion of old dancers who are then haunted by visions of their younger selves, so it is quite apt that I should be there as the genuine article."

"There are about 40 dancers in this show. It's going to be very exciting and I am very pleased to be involved and for everything dancing has given me."

● **THE FOLLIES** will be performed from Tuesday to Saturday 4-8 October nightly at 7.30pm with a Saturday matinee at 2.30pm. For tickets, call 01935 422884.

Once married, she and naval officer husband Peter moved to Scotland, but during his long periods at sea she spent much time in Kenya, where she had grown up.

There she modelled, started her own ballet school, continued her life-long love of teaching yoga and worked in films as dancers and stunt doubles.

In 1984, her husband started work at Westland in Yeovil and the couple moved to Dorset.

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**STEPPING OUT:** Angela Lindley in a recent dance production.

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### Training

She spent 18 months training in Paris and touring Europe with the Bluebells before leaving at the age of 20 to marry her fiance of three years.

"I had just been offered work with the Las Vegas troupe but I felt love was more important. I had had a great time, though."

"At 5ft 8in I was too tall for classical ballet but just what they wanted as a Bluebell."

"We were based in Paris and 1960 was a great time to be there. But unfortunately I never performed at the Moulin Rouge as it was only a cafe then."

"Money was no object and we had fabulous costumes and, unlike the showgirls, we were always fully clothed. We'd open the show with top hats, lots of jewellery and long black gloves and then we'd do all sorts of dances from can-can to South-American styles. We had to know 12 perfectly."

"We had to train regularly and it was hard work. If we misbehaved we were out but we were the best and the group every other dancer wanted to be in - renowned around the world."



**ELITE DANCERS:** The Bluebell group was formed in 1932 by Margaret Kelly, who died last year having trained more than 14,000 dancers in six decades. It was her vision to create an elite, glamorous cabaret group, and she wanted tall and talented young women.