

CHAIN REACTION SDC

STOP PRESS: Wyatt's Riot is ON (See page 2)

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2018

I can't believe it's got to April already. I know I missed a couple of club nights due to those sneaky snow storms, so I hope you have all been able to keep me up to date with news. I was all set to start with a spring picture of daffodils. However, these are the views from my bedroom window on 8th March instead!



And Di's views of Mansfield



There's a gully under there somewhere. No wonder the waste pipe was frozen!



HEALTH NEWS

BOB HEYES

Most people come back from Spain with a sun tan but Bob (Bob and Viv) has come back with shingles affecting his foot so we send him best wishes for a speedy recovery.

BARBARA KEMP

I am delighted to tell you that Barbara had her operation and is out of hospital. She is at home and recovering well. She is keen to get back to dancing again so we are all willing her along in that. The news of Barbara gets better and better, and we are all delighted for her. She herself is equally delighted to have had so many visitors and she thanks us all for going to see her and sending cards.

AND from Barbara herself, 18.03.18:

Would you please thank everyone for their good wishes and offers of help, which are all very much appreciated? I am overwhelmed by all your offers of help and it is very comforting indeed. (Rest assured that if I need any help I will shout!)

I don't want a fuss and I am sure they will not want to keep hearing about me, but you can tell everyone that I am currently continuing to feel well and am making good progress.

Thank you again for your concern, and I hope to see you soon. (I will try to spend more time learning my C1 moves whilst I am convalescing!)

Love to everyone, Barbara

BOB ALLAN

Scottish Bob (Bob 4 of last year's "4-Bob-Square") has reported that his radio therapy has been successful in removing his cancer, which is very good news. However, he has arthritis in both knees and is also waiting for a cataract operation, so he has very limited mobility in both respects. He sounded quite cheerful when I spoke to him and he sends his best wishes to all of us at ChAin ReaCtion.

SAD NEWS OF ROY TEW

We are sorry to have to tell you that sadly Roy, who recently suffered three nasty falls, passed away peacefully in Victoria Hospital, Blackpool, on Friday. At the moment Nell is staying with her daughter and our thoughts are with her and the family. Some of our newer members may not know Roy but he served on our committee and was chairman for a while, as well as being a member of Lune Valley. Although he had to give up dancing due to ill health, Nell has continued to dance whenever she can and they have been keen supporters of the club.

SOME GROANS FROM DAVID

What do you call a dinosaur with an extensive vocabulary? (You'll like this!) A thesaurus.

What do you call bears with no ears? (Wait for it!) B!

What Sport can you play with a wombat? Wait for it! Wom.

Do you know how NASA organizes their staff Christmas party? They planet.

What do you call dangerous precipitation? A rain of terror.

Why can't a bike stand on its own? It's two tired.

LUNE VALLEY OCEAN WAVERS

SPRING DANCE

at the Halton Centre

Saturday, 28th April 2018

Callers: Cliff Anderton and Gene Turner

Mainstream and Plus

7.30 to 10.45

Jacob's Join and Raffle

URGENT NEWS WYATT'S RIOT is ON

20th - 22nd April 2018, Torquay

The April edition of Let's Square Dance magazine erroneously shows this event as cancelled. This is not the case. It is the Activ8's A1 dance on 21st April which has been cancelled and the printers put the stamp across the wrong event. DO PLEASE GO TO WYATT'S RIOT IF YOU CAN.

From Val 20.03.18

Thanks to you all for your cooperation when we had to cancel at the weekend. It was impossible for Di to get through although some of us were luckier than others with the weather. We do now (thanks to Carol and Brian) have the equipment to run the club with CDs if there is ever a situation without a caller – depending on how many other people can get through if the weather is bad. Obviously there would have to be enough people interested to make it worthwhile and financially viable. Perhaps you could have a think about this and let us know if you would support a CD session if we had a similar situation in the future. If any of you have been to outside dances, or visited other clubs please let Jane know. We are going to try and include it in the news letter each month, it doesn't need to be an article – but they are very welcome – but just where you have been. Thank you. Val

WHITE ROSE 40TH ANNIVERSARY DANCE HARROGATE

James Wyatt was calling mainstream and plus and there were 11 of us there from Chain Reaction and Lune Valley. An enjoyable evening's dancing to James even though he is not in the best of health at the moment. The event was like a Northern Area Callerfest: I think I counted about 15 callers and ex-callers in the hall. There was the usual format of mainstream and plus tips (with a couple of basic tips for White Rose beginners and people who hadn't done any dancing for a while) and a raffle and pot luck supper. James provided his usual amazing choreography but again he is suffering badly from this mystery illness. Hope he and Brenda can soon get to the bottom of this and get back to his normal self. Brian Holman

OVERNIGHT B & B PLEASE

Last month Barbara asked if anyone could offer overnight accommodation for Carol and Rick from Australia for the Saturday night after our Summer Dance in August. If you can help with this, please let Barbara know soon so that she can let them know.

WARRINGTON NEWS

The Allemanders in Warrington had got down to two squares 2 or 3 years ago but thanks to Chris and her U3A group, they have acquired a number of new dancers and now average 3 squares each week. I believe they often have 4 squares at their U3A group on Monday mornings. About 10 of the newer ones have graduated at the Allemanders and as a result the Allemanders are now offering a Teaching Plus hour from 7.00 pm on Thursdays, which is good news for everyone.

The Allemanders are holding a Special Dance (as they seem to term them on the continent) with **Brian Hotchkies** from Australia calling on Thursday, 25th May, so hope as many dancers as possible will come and dance then. As the Darley weekend has been cancelled, I hope this will free up a few people who would have otherwise been going to Darley and that they will come and dance at Warrington instead.



I am including a different spring picture and hope this is a sign of some better weather to come! This is me showing off my Easter Bonnet at the Allemanders Easter Dance, and winning more chocolates (yippee).

Jane

This CHURCHILLISM was sent in by Barbara.

A Smile - is a sign of Joy
A Hug – is a sign of Love
A Laugh – is a sign of Happiness
And a Friend like me? –

Well, that's just a sign of Good Taste.

W Churchill

April Fools' Day

(A bit of research from David)

How the custom of fooling people on April 1 came about remains shrouded in mystery. One theory suggests it originated in 1582, when Pope Gregory XIII decreed that, with the adoption of the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Day would be moved to January 1st from what was April 1st. Thus, those who celebrated the Old New Year's Day on April 1st were 'April Fools'.

Another suggestion is that it springs from the time when Christians came into power in the Roman Empire: in the early Roman calendar, April 1st was the first day of spring, when there would be sacrifices and gifts given to the gods for the renewal of the earth and life. However, the Christians' Easter celebration replaced the Romans' spring rituals, and people observing the old Roman celebrations were ridiculed and made fun of. Hence, April Fools!

Below are outlines of six memorable April Fools pranks:

The Swiss Spaghetti Harvest

April 1, 1957: BBC's *Panorama* announced that, thanks to a very mild winter and the virtual elimination of the dreaded spaghetti weevil, Swiss farmers were enjoying a bumper spaghetti crop. It accompanied this announcement with

footage of Swiss peasants pulling strands of spaghetti down from trees. Huge numbers of viewers fooled. Many called the BBC wanting to know how they could grow their own spaghetti tree. To this the BBC diplomatically replied, "Place a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best."

Instant Color TV

April 1, 1962: Sweden's SVT (Sveriges Television) brought their technical expert, Kjell Stensson, onto the news to inform the public that, thanks to a new technology, viewers could convert their existing black and white television sets to display colour TV. (At the time, SVT was the only TV channel in Sweden, broadcasting in black and white.) Stensson explained that viewers had to pull a nylon stocking over their TV screen, and the mesh would cause the light to bend in such a way that it would appear as if the image was in color. Thousands of people were fooled. Many Swedes today still remember their fathers rushing through the house to find stockings to place over the TV set.

The Eruption of Mount Edgecumbe

April 1, 1974: The residents of Sitka, Alaska, woke to the sight of black smoke rising from the nearby crater of Mount Edgecumbe, a long-

dormant volcano. People spilled out of their homes onto the streets, terrified that an eruption was imminent. It turned out local practical joker Porky Bickar had flown hundreds of old tyres into the volcano's crater and set them on fire, successfully fooling city dwellers into believing that the volcano was erupting!

Planetary Alignment Decreases Gravity

April 1, 1976: During an early-morning interview on BBC Radio 2, astronomer Patrick Moore announced that at 9:47 am that day a-once-in-a-lifetime astronomical event was going to occur: Pluto would pass behind Jupiter, and this planetary alignment would temporarily lessen Earth's gravity. Moore told listeners that if they jumped in the air at the exact moment the alignment occurred, they would experience a strange floating sensation. At 9:47, the station began receiving hundreds of 'phone calls from listeners claiming to have felt the sensation. One woman reported that she and her friends had risen from their chairs and floated around the room! Moore had intended his announcement to be a spoof of a pseudoscientific theory that had recently been promoted in a book called *The Jupiter Effect*, alleging

that a rare alignment of the planets was going to cause massive earthquakes and the destruction of Los Angeles in 1982.

San Serriffe



April 1, 1977: *The Guardian* published a special seven-page supplement devoted to San Serriffe, a small republic said to consist of several semi-colon-shaped islands located in the Indian Ocean. A series of articles affectionately described the geography and culture of this obscure nation. Its two main islands were named Upper Caisse and Lower Caisse. Its capital was Bodoni, and its leader was General Pica. *The Guardian's* phones rang all day as readers sought more information about the idyllic holiday spot. Only a few noticed that everything about the island was named after printers' terminology. The success of this hoax is widely credited with

launching the enthusiasm for April Foolery in British tabloids in subsequent decades.

The Left-Handed Whopper

April 1, 1998: Burger King published a full page advertisement in *USA Today* announcing the introduction of a new item to their menu: a 'Left-Handed Whopper' specially designed for the 32 million left-handed Americans. According to the advertisement, the new whopper included the same ingredients as the original Whopper (lettuce, tomato, hamburger patty, etc.), but all the condiments *were rotated 180 degrees* for the benefit of their left-handed customers. The following day Burger King revealed thousands of customers had gone into restaurants to request the new sandwich.

FINALLY

We have a lot to look forward to now, starting with Lune Valley's dance on 21st April and Wyatt's Riot the following week, with the visits of Brian Hotchkies in May followed by the usual summer campouts.

CARRY ON DANCING EVERYONE!