

CHAIN REACTION SDC NEWSLETTER – MAY 2023

WHAT A SEND-OFF!

On Saturday 30th March 2024 the UK Square Dancing community came together to hold a memorial dance for James Wyatt, a much-loved caller who had died in 2023.

Over 115 people attended the venue at St. Joseph's in the Park School, Hertingfordbury, Hertfordshire, including his widow Brenda, their two children Rocky and Lori-Ann plus their partners and toddler Emmerson.

We danced Advanced 1 and 2 in the afternoon and then continued with a Plus level dance in the evening. Both our Callers Neil Whiston and Eddie James had worked extensively with James holding a particular event every Easter in Hemsby. So it seemed appropriate to hold this celebration of James on Easter Saturday. In the evening session we were also joined by Amy Richardson cueing Choreographed Ballroom which many couples enjoyed. Dancers had travelled from all over the UK to attend and many had not seen and danced with each other since before Covid.

There was a wonderful atmosphere on the day with much laughter and a few tears. As with all events of this nature, it is all very well having an idea but it takes input and support from many to make it happen and I am extremely grateful to all those who offered assistance in advance and on the day.

We were lucky to receive an abundance of raffle prizes and a £50 donation from Viking Squares Club so we were able to make a total donation of £1000 to Diabetes UK.

Barbara Scott Barbarascott27@gmail.com

Barbara was the only member of Chain Reaction who was able to go to this special memorial dance and we are proud to have her as one of our members. Thank you, Barbara, for this report and photographs.

Callers: Eddie James and Neil Whiston



A wide selection of raffle prizes



All squared up



C WEEKEND AT LANE END with Vic Cedar

Six members from CR plus Di ventured South to dance to Vic Cedar from the USA. The weekend offers C1, C2 and C3A and there is a mix of experienced dancers and "learners". Most dancers now struggle to find the opportunity to dance these levels so many had made long journeys. As it is so far Barry and I went a couple of days early and spent a day at Windsor Castle which was really interesting. En route we got a bit lost and narrowly avoided ending up in terminal 4 carpark at Heathrow - not good for my stress level. The dancing for us was on Friday night, Saturday afternoon and evening, and Sunday morning. The calling was challenging and interesting and thanks to Di's teaching we coped fairly well and learned a lot. Between the afternoon and evening sessions we went for a meal at a local pub which Barbara arranged for us. It was a very enjoyable week-end, everyone is very friendly and helpful and I would recommend it to any C dancer.



We might not get the dancing right but we're good at eating.



Vic Cedar and Di



Brian's birthday - but no cake

Comment from Jane: that looks suspiciously like a bottle of wine on the table, but is "claimed" to be a candle holder!

JANE MURPHY

We are all very sorry to hear that Jane is no longer able to come to Chain Reaction. Although the good news is that she has started to dance again following her accident, she isn't able to drive the distance to CR and sadly nobody else travels from her direction. Jane was a founder member of CR and has supported us regularly ever since. She also volunteered to set up our website and to produce our monthly newsletter. We are hoping that she might be able to visit us from time to time and will keep in touch with us via the newsletter.

On behalf of all of us we would like to give Jane a HUGE thank you for all the work she has done for the club over many years. Jane, you will be greatly missed.
Val & CR Committee.

As requested, here is a photograph of Paddy and me, although I'm sure you all know what I look like. Anyway, I've really enjoyed dancing with you all and keeping my nose nose into your lives through the newsletters. What am I going to do when I don't start my day by opening e-mails? Do keep in touch with me please. Thank you all. Jane.

