

# CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter March 2025

## The Chain Reaction AGM

The annual general meeting took place on the 16th of February 2025. To avoid losing a lot of dancing time the meeting began during the break. The current committee was re-elected and will serve for another year.

Cakes were provided by Ann Wilson in the form of chocolate cake and lemon drizzle cake, thank you Ann.



## Looking Forward And Future Plans

As all our dancers are now dancing A2 and some C1 it is time to consider what we do next.

We can start another teaching programme at any level this year. If you know of anyone who would like to learn A1, A2 or C1 please ask them to get in touch with me. For various reasons we have lost dancers since covid but if any would like to return and start again we would be delighted to see and help you.

*Val Pemberton*

## Paul Mee

We were all shocked and saddened to hear of Paul's sudden death. A lot of us have known him for many years and he has made a big contribution to square dancing both calling and teaching.

He was always there to help and support dancers and events.

He will be missed and we send our deepest sympathy to Marion and his family.

Funeral March 12, Lincoln Crematorium, further details from Val Pemberton.

## Keep In Touch

Our newsletter reaches a lot of dancers , not just club members but people who have supported our dances in the past and also visitors, ex-members and people who have left the area. Even if you don't dance with us any more we would love to hear from you so please send your news to Alan Chard and keep in touch with us.

*Val Pemberton*

## Events Of Interest

One sometimes sees stickers on cars that announce 'Square dancing is a way of life', what does it mean?

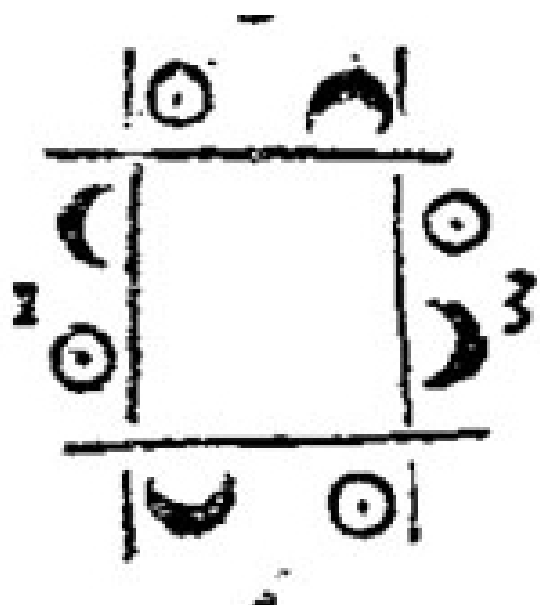
For some people, square dancing is just something they do on a Monday night because it fits in with their calendar and there is a local club they can drop into. For others square dancing is more, it is an integral part of life and contributes to their overall lifestyle.

In generally, square dancers are a friendly group and has people of all ages coming together to take part in a shared activity. As an activity square dancing provides major benefits, physical, social and mental activity, the learning of new sequences of moves and physical contact with other people.

What makes square dancing special is that a group of eight people who may not have met before can come together and share an activity where they have to work as a team. You never know what the next call will be, so every dance is different. It's challenging, you have to know the calls and how to react depending on your position in the square.

Square dance calls are always the same because each is defined, and they are always called in English, so you can square dance anywhere in the world.

Wikipedia has two main entries for square dancing, one for Modern Western Square Dance and another for Square Dance in general. The latter has interesting references to the origins of square dancing going back to the 'Playford era' when dances were first published in England by John Playford in 1651.



**John Playford - The English Dancing  
Master 1651**

Coming back to the present day, once dancers have mastered the ideas of square dancing many are ready to look further afield for opportunities to join other dancers for a larger event.

In the UK the umbrella organisation for square dancing is the British Association of American Square Dance Clubs, BAASDC, their website has information about clubs and events in the UK and further afield. The BAASDC also produces a monthly magazine that is distributed electronically, we all receive a copy thanks to Val Pemberton. There is a lot of information on the BAASDC website, one needs to trawl through the pages of events to get an overview of what is available and when. It's not the most intuitive website to use.

Those who live in the North West of the UK can be disappointed to find that the majority of Saturday dances necessitate travelling and staying overnight or a long late night journey home.

Similarly the weekend events are generally in the south of the UK, the exception being our NW and Lakes Weekend.

## Square Dancing Events in Europe

There is a lot happening in Europe, but finding out what and when is not straightforward. There are links on the BAASDC website, but you have to be persistent to find them.

Browsing the web is the easiest way to find events, starting with a search such as 'square dance events Europe'. Expect to spend some time reading and following links, it helps if you use the Chrome browser because it will translate the foreign language pages very quickly and with surprising success, making them easily understood.

What you will find is that Germany has the most events, ranging from Mainstream up to C1 and C2.

Square Dance Events

Show event calendar on a map

Register new event

MS PL AI C1C2 8

February 2025

30. Mustache Stüweck AT 8862 Stadl an der Mur

Date: Saturday, February 22th, 2025 - Saturday, March 1st, 2025  
 Club: Vienna Swingers  
 Leader: Michael Braithwaite

Nürtinger Clubabend DE 61169 Friedberg

Kanzler DE 52531 Ubach-Palenberg

March 2025

30. Mustache Dance DE 63933 Mönchberg

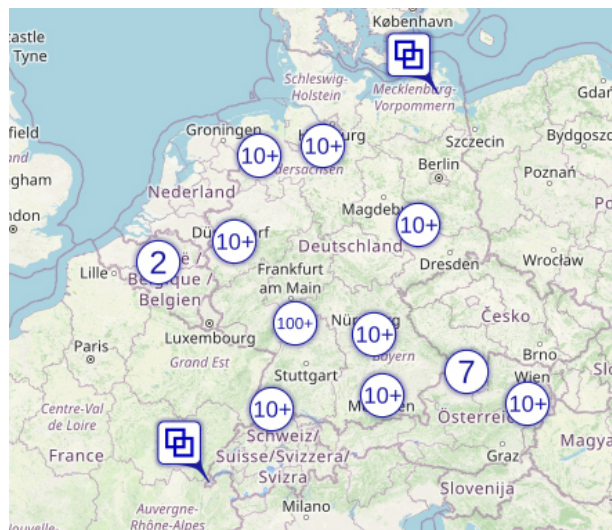
A2 Extended Workshop DE 73439 Aalen

Mainstream-Workshop DE 52074 Aachen

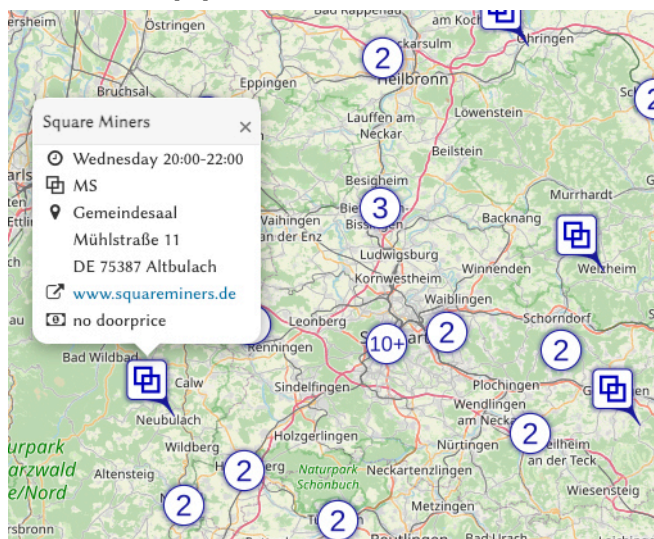
17. Faschnachtsdance DE 74731 Wülflorn

### Example from squaredance.net

A website that seems really useful is squaredance.net/en/, the events are presented in date order showing the level and location, if you want more details the entry opens easily to show links to the flyer, website, map and route planner. At the top of



Map presentation of events



### Single event details when icon clicked

the page are slider button that allow you to select the dance level that you want.

All the information is also presented on a map that has the location of each event, none of the UK events are shown. As you zoom-in on the map, the events are grouped to avoid confusion.

This is the most useful square dance site that I have discovered recently.

Alan Chard

## Chain Reaction Members Visit Gresgath Hall Gardens

On the second Sunday in February, Ann and Norman Wilson, Brian and I went to visit Gresgath Hall Gardens which is situated on the outskirts of Caton village.

We were all very impressed by the immaculate presentation. It was obvious that a huge amount of work and care had been taken.

The snowdrops were lovely, which is what we went to see but I was really impressed with the precision they had taken with everything.

Their vast number of ceramic pots had all been bubble wrapped and covered in Hessian with netting to keep off the birds and the frost out. The



### Gresgarth Hall Gardens

statues in the garden had all received similar treatment finished with boarding.

All the hedges were trimmed immaculately and borders mulched.

The vegetable garden was the same, all prepared ready for planting.

The gardens are around 3 acres plus a further 4 acres of open woodland across the river via an attractive bridge.

They open once a month on second Sunday 11-3 and to 5 during height of summer.

A little pricey at £15.50 but this included help yourself hot chocolate and biscuits.

Looking forward to going again when the shrubs and flower borders are in full bloom.

Look up their website, as it has lots of pics of the grounds.

*Carol Holman*

### A Kind Of Humour . . .

Is a child that refuses to take a nap resisting a rest?

My wife wanted to disgrace me in front of her friends, she said I wasn't good in bed. She was shocked when they all disagreed with her.

I went to the paint store to get thinner, it didn't work.

If you think swimming with dolphins is expensive you should try swimming with sharks. It cost me an arm and a leg.

I'm the kind of wife that will help my husband look for his chocolate, that I ate.

What do you call it when a midget waves at you? A microwave.

How do you get a one-armed man out of a tree? Wave at him.

My girlfriend left a note on the fridge: 'It's not working. I can't take it anymore. I am going home to my mother.' I opened the fridge, the light came on, the beer was cold. What is she talking about?

One book said to another 'You look much thinner!' the other replied 'Thanks! I had my appendix removed.'

Your password must contain . . .

At least 8 characters including an upper case and lower case letter, a number, a symbol, a hieroglyph, a haiku, a musical note, three french hens and a partridge in a pear tree.

By replacing your morning coffee with green tea, you can lose 85% of what little joy you still have left in your life.

### Chain Reaction Contact Details

Jean Bransby	jeanbransby@hotmail.com 0779 596 7123
Alan Chard	chainreactionsdc@gmail.com 0759 865 8339
Brian Holman	brian204holman@btinternet.com 01524 822444 0737 999 6722
Val Pemberton	val8@talktalk.net 01253 700534
David Walker	davidweclipse@gmail.com 0788 637 6459

**Newsletter contributions** to Alan Chard.

Please keep your contributions to this newsletter coming, send by 30<sup>th</sup> March 2025 for April.

Please send photos and text separately because photos embedded in documents tend to be too small.

Preferred email address chainreactionsdc@gmail.com.