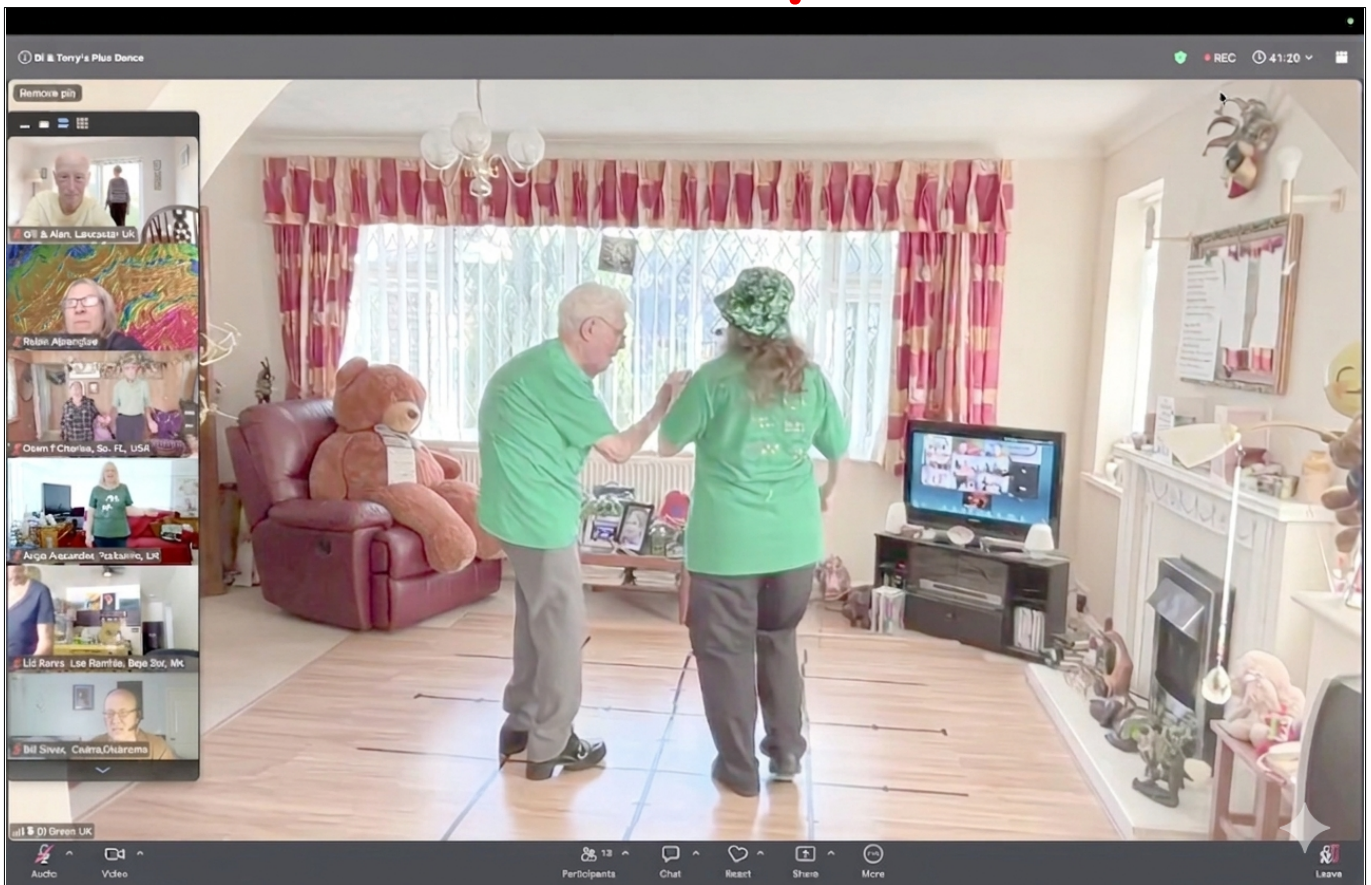


CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter April 2026



Di Green and Terry McCann Calling Zoom Dancing

Square Dancing on Zoom

The global lockdown was a challenging time for everyone, forcing us to adapt and find new ways to connect and enjoy our passions. For many American Square Dancers, this meant embracing technology and continuing to dance via Zoom. While some callers returned to in-person clubs once restrictions eased, a dedicated following of dancers, guided by resilient callers like Di Green and Terry McCann, has continued to flourish in the virtual dance hall.

This article explores the enduring benefits of Zoom square dancing, highlighting its accessibility, educational value, and unique ability to enhance dancer proficiency.

One of the most significant advantages of virtual square dancing is the opportunity for dancers from all corners of the world to participate in weekly sessions at various levels. No longer bound by geographical limitations, dancers can access high-quality calling regardless of where they live. This inclusivity fosters a diverse dance community, where friendships are forged across continents.

Zoom square dancing offers a unique platform for dancers to truly learn and understand the definitions of each move. In a virtual setting,

without the visual cues of fellow dancers to mirror, participants complete each move but can still refer to position of the callers when necessary.

Di Green and Terry McCann play a crucial role in this process by providing helpful prompts and reminders. They expertly guide dancers through complex formations, indicating the positions of "ghost" dancers and clarifying the current setup. This constant feedback is invaluable in enabling dancers to solidify their understanding of the definitions and execute the moves with greater accuracy and confidence.

The practice of dancing according to the definitions not only improves individual dancer proficiency but also enhances the overall quality of the dance. This proficiency carries forward to dance sessions together with other dancers.

The initial impetus for virtual square dancing may have been born out of necessity, its continued existence and popularity demonstrate its enduring value. Di Green and Terry McCann, with their dedication and expertise, are a great example showing how virtual and in-person dance experiences can coexist and complement each other, enriching the lives of square dancers worldwide. You only have to look at the locations to see this and realise that although it may be late



Zoom Gallery View

afternoon in the UK it's early morning in Mexico and West-Coast US. These are dedicated dancers.

Virtual Square Dancing in Practice

By now you are probably wondering what actually happens during a Zoom dance session, especially when there may be only one or two dancers present at a location.

The screenshot above shows Di and Terry in their specially constructed dance studio (aka living room) with wood floor marked out for clarity. All the dancers square up as couple 3 in their own square, the same position as Di and Terry the computer being used is behind them. Before the tip starts everyone can set their view in Zoom to 'pin' the caller, that means all the participants can see where Di and Terry are as they dance. Di and Terry also have a large screen in the corner of their studio (top left in photo) that shows a 'gallery view' of all the dancers, so not only are they dancing and calling, but they are also keeping an eye on whether we dancers are keeping up.

The moves called are all 4-person calls such as Pass the Ocean, Follow Your Neighbour, Quarter Through etc with added variety provided by calls such as Chain Reaction, Spin Chain Through and Motivate. The sequences of moves are generally short, six to ten moves.

Fortunately we get verbal prompts as needed with the harder calls and difficult positions.

At the time of writing, Zoom square dance sessions take place on Monday for C1 Workshop and dance at 1500, Tuesday for A2 at 1600 and Wednesday for Plus at 1600; (UK times). Contact Di Green for further information and the invite with Zoom details. The experience is very rewarding and you'll find a friendly international group to join.

*Alan Chard
Screenshots by Alan Chard*

Robin Alpenglow in the UK Again



Robin Alpenglow and Di Green*

Robin Alpenglow from California (pictured above and in the Gallery View), is a regular Zoom participant, noted for her colourful background images on Zoom. Robin has visited the UK in several times recent years staying with Di Green and Terry McCann and undertaking a somewhat gruelling schedule of square dancing at various levels. This year Robin is back, and at the Plus Zoom session on Wednesday we had the bonus of seeing her dance with Di Green.



Robin Alpenglow Feeling the Cold

Robin definitely feels the difference in temperature between her home in California at around 25°C and Lancaster around 5°C with a wind chill making it feel more like 2°. When Robin visited Lune Valley Ocean Wavers the hall at the Victoria Institute was very cool, because the heating went off, however help was at hand with other dancers coming to the rescue with fleeces and jackets.



Di Green & Terry McCann Duet at CR*

Robin's next visit was to Chain Reaction for A1 and A2 dancing. We enjoyed a very enjoyable evening of dancing and teaching provided by Di Green.

Text & Photos Alan Chard

Terry joined Di for a singing call at the club on Saturday [28 March 2026]. He hasn't called for a while so it was lovely to hear that familiar voice again. Well done Terry, we really enjoyed it so hopefully we will hear more in the future

Text and photo Val Pemberton



Robin & Di at Chain Reaction*

Lane End C Weekend

This month six of us drove to Lane End in Buckinghamshire for the C weekend called by Vic Cedar from the USA.

Barry and I went a couple of days early and broke our journey in Cambridge to visit friends before heading for Marlow. It's a long trip but this time it was easy, no roadworks or traffic jams just pot holes. We were lucky with the weather, we were able to enjoy walks by the Thames and Marlow Locks, so good to be out in the fresh air.

The dancing was challenging but mostly we coped well and it was interesting and fun. Vic was very patient when we often destroyed his choreography.

Sadly as with many events the numbers are dropping but unfortunately this year the weekend clashed with an A2 weekend in Bournemouth and



Chain Reaction Members at Lane End C Weekend

a C holiday in Tenerife all with top callers. The next C1 weekend is in October and we are all looking forward to that.

Val Pemberton

A Kind Of Humour . . .

I don't want to brag, but cashiers are always checking me out.

Before the crowbar was invented, crows did their drinking at home.

"He has no enemies, but is intensely disliked by his friends." - Oscar Wilde

"Why do you sit there looking like an envelope without any address on it?" - Mark Twain

I don't always wake up grumpy - sometimes I leave her to sleep in.

My wife and I decided never to go to bed angry with each other. We've been awake for three days and nights.

Why do the French eat snails? Because they don't like fast food. Karl Marx is a famous philosopher, but no-one ever mentions his sister, Onya, the inventor of the starting pistol.

If you boil a funny bone it becomes a laughing stock. That's humerus.

What did the thesaurus have for breakfast? A synonym roll!

We are know mirrors don't lie, be grateful they don't laugh.

The correct term for gluten-free, sugarless vegan brownies is 'compost'.

Marriage guidance councillor: 'Do you fell dominated by your wife?' Wife: 'No, he doesn't.'

