

CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter March 2026



A Serendipitous Meeting in Otley

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On Monday 23rd February 2026, during one of our regular visits to Gill's cousin, the three of us ambled down to the Otley Wetherspoons for our lunch. We three have spent many a happy hour here, in front of a roaring log fire (in winter) enjoying our 'something' and chips with a glass of wine, all for under £25... a bargain!

Imagine our surprise that, as Gill leading the way to our usual table, spotted Marilyn and David (Dewar) at a nearby table! Marilyn, on her seventh day post-op had just been discharged from hospital that morning, clearly celebrating (in Wetherspoons style) both her release from hospital that her knee-replacement surgery was over and done with.

We chatted briefly catching up with the news. The op had gone well, some residual bruising (which is usual) and a very neat dressing over the wound. Doing her exercises and regaining more strength and range of movement in her knee each day,

Marilyn looked exceeding well (photo above). It was lovely to see them both, not least as it was SO unexpected! Well done Marilyn (and David) we look forward to seeing you back at Chain Reaction soon, unlikely this weekend but perhaps in mid-March.

*Gill & Alan Chard
Photo credit Julie Tordoff*

Dinner Dance

This month Lune Valley Ocean Wavers Square Dance Club once again held their annual dinner dance at Morecambe Golf Club.

We all enjoyed an excellent meal before dancing for everyone called by Trevor Day. There were 9 Chain Reaction members present but sadly, as with many events, the numbers attending are declining.

However it was good to see some new and enthusiastic dancers. It was a very enjoyable evening with the opportunity to chat, eat and

dance, very much a social evening so if you missed it this year do think about joining us next time.

Thanks to Deborah and the LV committee for organising it all.

Val Pemberton

Do you play music to your plants?

Playing music to plants entered popular culture in the 1960s, complete with “music for plants” albums. Plants cannot appreciate music as we do as they have neither ears nor brains. However, they can detect vibrations in their environment and alter their behaviour accordingly. In one study a mouse-ear cress exposed to the sound of caterpillars chewing produced higher levels of a bitter toxin. They could distinguish this sound from wind or insect mating calls even when they were at a similar frequency.

Within as little as three minutes of being played the sound of a bee flying, the nectar in evening primrose flowers has been shown to become richer in sugary reward.

Plants such as tomatoes, blueberries and kiwis release pollen only when vibrated by the buzz of their specific pollinating bee species, ignoring the sound of other bees.

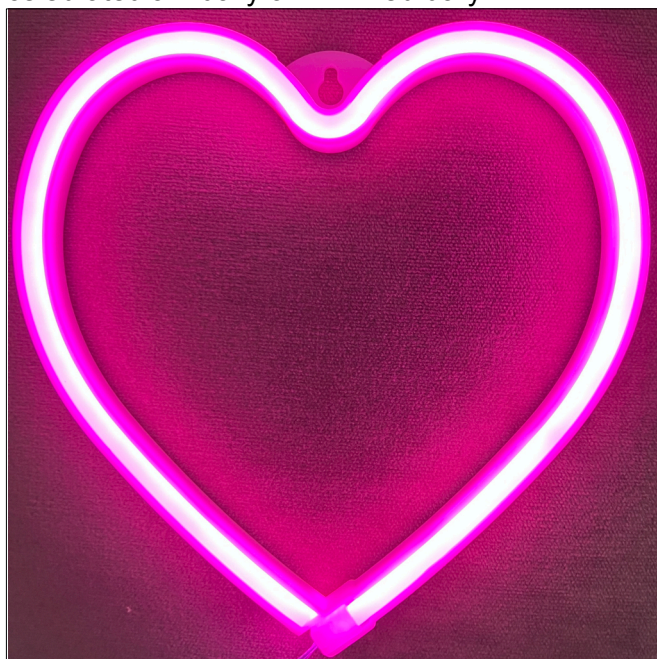
A recent study found that some music tracks were associated with significantly improved lettuce growth but had no effect on alfalfa.

Sage and marigold plants exposed to 16 hours of continuous traffic noise each day produced significantly poorer growth.

Norman Wilson

Valentine's Day Dance

The last meeting of Chain Reaction had a valentines theme where we were asked to wear something red or appropriate. It's interesting to look a little further and remember St Valentine as a historical figure, shrouded in mystery and celebrated annually on 14th February.



The historical background indicates that St Valentine was either a priest or bishop in the Roman Empire around 270 AD, in the time of Emperor Claudius II Gothicus. St Valentine is reputed to have defied the emperor's orders by secretly marrying Christian couples. Claudius II had banned marriages to keep men focused on military service. For his defiance, St Valentine was arrested, beaten and eventually beheaded on February 14th.

He is now considered the patron saint of lovers, but his remit extends further to being the patron saint of beekeeping, epilepsy, fainting, traveling and plague victims.

Over the centuries St Valentine has become associated with the celebration of romantic love and in particular the giving of gifts of cards and flowers.

There were several early Christian martyrs named Valentine whose exact identity is difficult to tease apart.

Alan Chard (photo and text)

AGM notes

The Annual General Meeting of Chain Reaction Square Dance Club took place on 15th February 2026, the officers were re-elected unopposed and were thanked for their work during the year.

A Kind Of Humour . . .

A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.

The batteries were given out free of charge.

A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.

A will is a dead giveaway.

With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

Police were called to the daycare centre, where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.

Did you hear about the fellow whole whole left side was cut off? He's alright.

David Dewar

How do you know a regular joke from a dad joke? It becomes apparent when it is fully groan.

Surprising results were found from a survey of dogs about their preferred type of sex. Ninety-nine per cent replied Rough.

At the recent sheep dog trials none were found guilty.

I realise this joke is not very punny.

