

# CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter May 2026



Most of the UK participants at Cham, 2026

## 56th European Square & Round Dance College, Cham Germany

On Sunday 5th April 2026 just under two hundred square and round dancers from across Europe and North America began to gather in the ancient Bavarian town of Cham near the eastern border of Germany with Czechia for five days of dancing.

Interesting factoids: Cham, meaning bend or curve was likely named in Celtic times because of its location at the bend of a river: a tributary of the River Regen (itself a tributary of the Danube). Originally founded by the monks from Regensburg



Dining Room in Bavarian Style

in 8th century and recorded as having a Roman castle at Galgenberg (gallows) hill in 976, providing protection for the long-distance trade routes into Bohemia (Czechia).

Today, Cham is a typical Bavarian town with Town Hall (Stadt Cham), the Catholic Church of St Jakob with hourly chiming bells; central market square with ornate Lucknor fountain, the town's centrepiece where visitors, shoppers, families and square dancers rest a while taking in its colourful buildings and its history. It is here that square dancers from about ten countries gathered for the week, across three locations with three international callers (two American and one



Hotel Randsbergerhof, Cham



Featured in the local paper



More from the local paper

German — photo below) for square dancing at four levels: Mainstream, Plus, A1/A2.

The week began with a Trail-In dance on Sunday evening, ended with a Farewell dance for everyone on Saturday 11th April. Weekdays were structured with Round dance workshops all morning, Square dance workshops all afternoon and a dance each evening for both.

There were ten of us from the UK, Trevor & Chris and ourselves from Lune Valley/Chain Reaction plus six other round and square dancers from central England.

Workshops varied from the straightforward to mind-bendingly challenging, focusing on anything from general dancing to specific calls (e.g. acey ducey and circulate where the caller could tie us dancers in knots!).

We were well-fed in the Randsbergerhof hotel, described as a 'wellness hotel' with heated open-air sky-pool, saunas and spas. Not that we had



L to R: Eric Henerlau, Dave Preskitt, Randy Dibble



Nikolaus Lucknor around Cham





**Kid's Corner**

time for any such activities with our full-on programme of dancing and good food in the breakfast buffet or the rustic dining room. Even the kids were busy (see above) but not dancing.

The bottom line is always the dancing and the dancers: great callers, keen dancers and the lovely Bavarian town a short walk away. Definitely to be recommended, why not try it next year.

*Gill Chard*

*Photos Alan chard*

## A Kind Of Humour . . .

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

Man in boxers leads police in a brief chase.

Hiking in your 70s is a great way to meet new people; today I met 3 paramedics, 2 nurses, a cardiologist and I almost met Jesus.

A huge stack of toilet rolls fell on me in the supermarket today. I'm ok though, just soft tissue damage.

Sometimes you have to feed people bullshit just to see who they run and tell.

The biggest joke on mankind is that computers have started asking humans to prove that they are not robots.

Before you judge me please understand that I do not care.

A hacker called me and said he had all my passwords, I got a pen and paper and said 'Thank God for that, what are they?'

I found a £20 note in the car park at Asda and thought to myself, What would Jesus do? — So I turned it into wine.

I've been in bed 20 minutes and I've just remembered, I came upstairs for a pen.

I did some financial planning, it looks like I can retire at 96 and live comfortably for 12 minutes.

Strange new trend at the office. People putting names on food in the fridge. Today I had a tuna sandwich called Linda.

I might wake up early and go running. I also might wake up and win the lottery. The odds are about the same.

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**Newsletter contributions** to Alan Chard, please use the chainreactionsdc@gmail.com email because a contribution sat in my junk folder for a week and was only discovered by accident.

Please keep your contributions to this newsletter coming, send by 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 for the June edition.

\* An asterisk indicates image enhancement by Google Gemini