

CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter September 2026



(L to R) Miranda Visser, Di Green, John Visser and Janet

Visitors Attend Chain Reaction

We were delighted to welcome Miranda and John Visser and Janet to Chain Reaction in August 2026. Miranda and John are member of Grand Square Netherlands (GS-NL).

Since 2014 GS-NL has organised several weekend lectures for new callers and caller coaching. The team at GS-NL are focussed on caller and cuer training and raising the awareness of Square Dancing.

In 2018 GS-NL organised the Trail End dance before the European Square Dance Convention in Amsterdam, called by Michael Kellogg, where 550 dancers attended.

Covid-19 had a serious impact on the popularity of square dancing in The Netherlands, so only a few clubs are dancing today.

Photo & text: Alan Chard

Open Garden

Carol and Brian Holman opened their garden to members of Chain Reaction and Lune Valley Ocean Wavers for the afternoon of 8th August 2026.

It was lovely to spend a few hours relaxing in Carol and Brian's beautiful garden when they invited CR and LV dancers to a picnic. It was a warm sunny afternoon and nice to meet up and chat with



Open Garden 8th August

everyone. Thanks to Carol and Brian for hosting us and to Norman and Ann Wilson for much-appreciated shortbread and ice creams.

Photos Brian Holman

Text Val Pemberton

Update From Jane Murphy

I enjoyed your last newsletter a lot. Wow! So much going on. Well done, all of you.

The motorhome parking in Germany would horrify British campers. When we went to Paderborn one year, the motorhomes took over a whole car park and were parked in car-park spaces, so there was just about room to move down between them. As we were all going to the same event and not sitting outside in the sun, it didn't really matter.

My life seems to revolve round trips to the clinic, the drop-in centre and the hospital. The latest thing they offered was a "boot". "Oh, good, thinks I – they're going to kick me out". No such luck, though I wondered if it would be a wellie or a wader. As it turns out, it's a sort of one-legged wader to wear in the shower, so it's a new bit of entertainment for me.

The Allemanders has closed for August but the Folk Club is still going, so I get to that between clinic trips.

Going out for a meal tonight as it's my granddaughter's birthday. Need to go and find some glad rags to wear.

My second granddaughter's birthday is next week but they are 16 years and five days apart, and the youngest one is another 16 years younger again.

Still it keeps me in touch with a couple more generations (even though they don't think I'm on the same wavelength or even the same planet!)

Enjoy all your travels, all of you, and well done, Alan with the newsletter.

Jane

Some silly items for the humour section.

On a carrier bag: I'm a paper bag.

In shops: When it's gone it's gone.

One size fits all.

Getting a Smart Meter saves you money.

Always keep away from children (presumably they are some alien or infected species)



Phalaenopsis

I once saw a sign in an Iceland store stating "Everything in this freezer: £5". To this day I still wish I'd had the courage to transfer the entire contents into my trolley and offer my £5.

Jane Murphy

[It's good to hear from Jane Ed]

Phalaenopsis: an orchid by any other name!

I wonder how many of us have an orchid house plant in our home. As a pot plant I love their profusion of showy pink or white flowers with just a couple of thick fleshy leaves and even better they seem to thrive despite my (unintentional) neglect!

Popular as a gift and as a room decoration they are usually seen on windowsills or just decorating the table as a centrepiece. Find the right place for them, a north-facing positions, plenty of light but not too much direct sun and they blossom, literally!

Phalaenopsis is a genus (taxonomy or classification) of about seventy species of plants in the Orchidaceae family. Orchids in this genus are monopodial (growing from a single point) usually on rock which means long coarse roots growing externally, drawing moisture and nutrients from the air, rain or water around them. They are not too particular about what is available and are quite happy to use the debris accumulating next to them. Generally, they have a short stem with possibly one or two leaves growing from its base. The flowers are spectacular, lasting for weeks they can form a wall of colour, an arrangement that falls from a branching stem as if it is flowing like a waterfall of flowers. Orchids are native to Asia, New Guinea, and Australia, growing particularly well in moist equatorial regions such as Indonesia and the Philippines.

No wonder we have to nurture them carefully or find the best spot in the house for the plant and not its owner! And when you do it will reward you over and over again.

Gill Chard

Bone Cancer Research

For several years Chain Reaction has been collecting used stamps for the Bone Cancer Research Trust. Thanks to all your efforts we usually manage to send several packages a year. The Trust was founded 20 years ago and during that time they have invested over £12 million in research, supported thousands of patients and families affected by primary bone cancer and provided reliable information on every form of the disease.

We recently received a letter thanking supporters so please keep the stamps coming. Thank you for all your efforts.

Val Pemberton

A Kind Of Humour . . .

English can be a confusing language . . .

'Toilet out of order. Please use the floor below.'

In in laundrette the notice read:

Automatic washing machines. Please remove all your clothes when the light goes off.

At the office:

Would the person who took the step ladder yesterday please bring it back or further steps will be taken.

Outside a second-hand shop:

We exchange anything - bicycles, washing machines, etc. Why not bring your wife along and get a wonderful bargain?

Notice in health food shop window:

Closed due to illness...

Spotted in a safari park:

Elephants, please stay in your car.

Seen during a conference:

For anyone who has children and doesn't know it, there is a day care on the 1st floor.

Notice in a farmer's field:

The farmer allows walkers to cross the field for free, but the bull charges.

Message on a leaflet:

If you cannot read, this leaflet will tell you how to get lessons.

On a repair shop door:

We can repair anything. (Please knock hard on the door - the bell doesn't work.)

Some errors that should have been picked up at the proofreading stage, but still they get through. [that one is deliberate Ed]

Man kills self before shooting wife and daughter

Something went wrong in jet crash, expert says.

Police begin campaign to run down jaywalkers

Panda mating fails; veterinarian takes over

Miners refuse to work after death

War dims hope for peace

If strike isn't settled quickly, it may last awhile

Enfield (London) couple slain; police suspect homicide they may be on to something!

Red tape holds up new bridges

New study of obesity looks for larger test group

Astronaut takes blame for gas in spacecraft

Local high school dropouts cut in half

Typhoon Rips Through Cemetery; Hundreds Dead



Coffee Menu Simplified	
AMERICANO	BLACK COFFEE
FLAT WHITE	WHITE COFFEE
CAPPUCCINO	FROTHY COFFEE
LATTE	MILKY COFFEE
ESPRESSO	MINIATURE COFFEE
MACHIATO	MILK TOPPED COFFEE
MOCHA	CHOCOCY COFFEE
TEA	NOT COFFEE
HOT CHOCOLATE	STILL NOT COFFEE

Another form of amusement

I finally figured out why I get upset if my breakfast does not include something warm and buttered. I am lack toast intolerant.

When checking out at the supermarket, ask the checkout operator what kind of treat they would like and buy them one. I did this today even though I was at the self checkout.

Someone asked me how much I spend on a bottle of wine. I don't know . . . Half an hour?

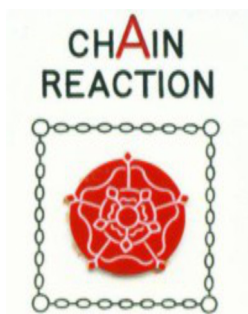
We thought it was our ability to love and empathise that made us human. We were wrong, it turns out it's our ability to select each image containing a traffic light.

Select all images with **traffic lights**.



Verify

Google CAPTCHA example



23rd Birthday

NORTH WEST & LAKES WEEKEND



Caton & Halton
Lancaster

31st Birthday

9th to 11th OCTOBER 2026

Paul Bristow & Di Green

MS – PLUS – A1 – A2 - C1*

Friday 6.30pm to Sunday 1.45pm

Friday, Saturday & Sunday dances:- MS & PLUS 2025

The Sunday Farewell Dance will inc. callers from the floor.

Friday workshop:- A1

Saturday workshops:- MS/Plus 2025 & C1

Saturday Afternoon dance:- A1/A2

Sunday Workshop:- A2 with C1*

Full weekend Dancing £31.00 - MS & Plus only £21.00 – MS only £15.00

The Centre @ Halton, Low Road, Halton on Lune.

LA2 6NB (5mins from M6 Jct 34, nr Lancaster)

Pre Event Tickets:- brian204holman@gmail.com or text 07981 743959

Contact: L.V.O.W. - Carol 07981 743959, C.R. - Val 01253 700534

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2027 Dates – 8,9,10 October 2027