

CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter October 2026



(L to R) Katrina & Terry Chapman; Brian & Carol Holman; Elaine & Roy Evans

Bideford A1 & A2 Weekend

This weekend (September 2026) was organised by Roy from Aeron Valley Diamonds. It took place at the Durrant House Hotel at Bideford, North Devon. The caller was Terry Chapman from the Isle of Wight.

The dancing took place Friday Evening (dance), Saturday morning (workshop), Saturday evening (dance), Sunday morning (workshop) and finally a Sunday evening dance.

Saturday and Sunday afternoons were free and the weather was warm and sunny so we did an extensive tour of Bideford on Saturday and a tour of Appledore on Sunday both with coffee, cake and ice cream stops.

The event was well supported (oversubscribed with a waiting list) with 9 squares dancing and using the computer rotation system.

Because of the distance we went down to Bideford a day early and stopped off in Chepstow for the evening. We drove to Chepstow through A-roads on the Welsh/English border and stopped for a few hours at Berrington Hall (National Trust) near Ludlow. The next morning we visited Chepstow Castle (English Heritage), for a couple of hours and then completed our journey to Bideford.

As well as Carol & myself Chris and Trevor Day were there but they unfortunately had to leave early because of a car malfunction.



Berrington Hall



Castle and River Wye Bridge

It was a good weekend for experienced 'A' dancers as Terry is a very good caller.

Photos & text: Brian Holman



Chepstow Castle

Just a minute

The word 'minute' originally meant "something small" and was also used to describe the 60th part of an hour – "a minute of an hour". It was later abbreviated to a minute. A second of time is a second division of an hour. There was once a "third" denoting a sixtieth of a second. A manual for seafarers of 1595: "Every degree .. doth contain 60 minutes, every minute sixty seconds and every second sixty thirds".

The same subdivisions were used by scientists at until least the 18th century, one text of 1758 referring to a short time interval of minut. sec. 2, tert. 24, i.e. 2 24/60 seconds.

Norman Wilson

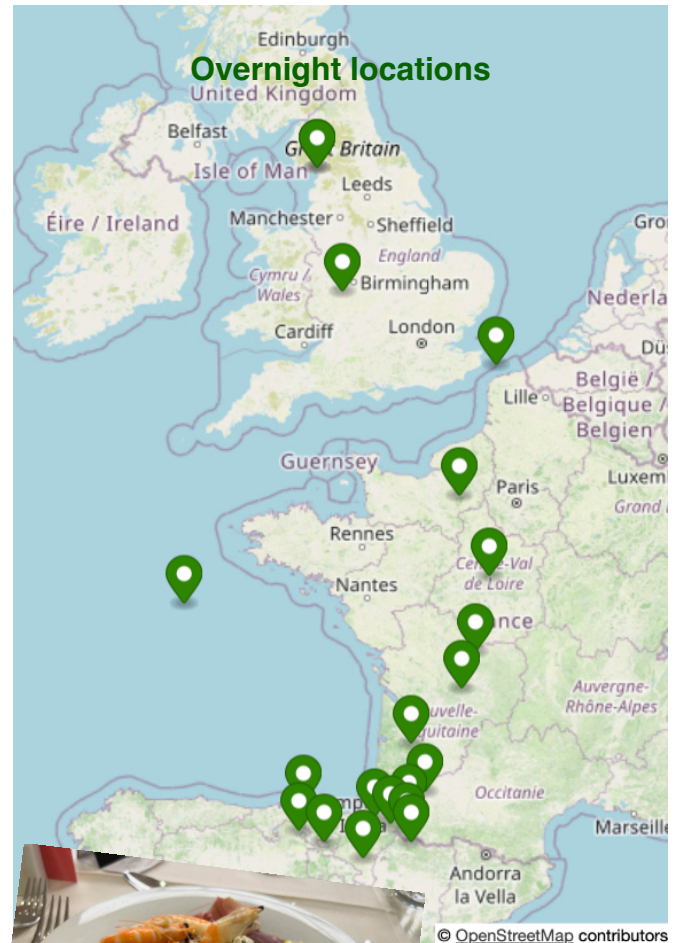
[It has always struck me as strange that we changed our currency to decimal on the grounds that it would be easier but still kept seconds and hours. The reality of pounds, shillings and pence was not really difficult, if something was a penny each then they were a shilling a dozen and twelve shillings a gross - very simple. Ed]

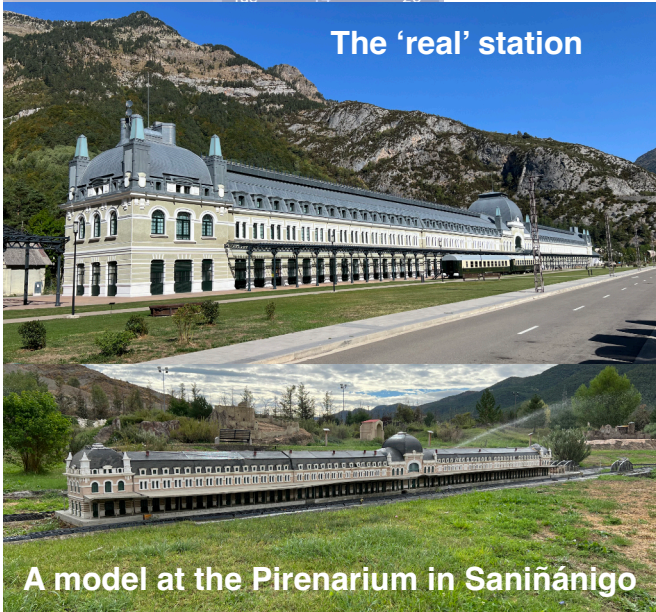
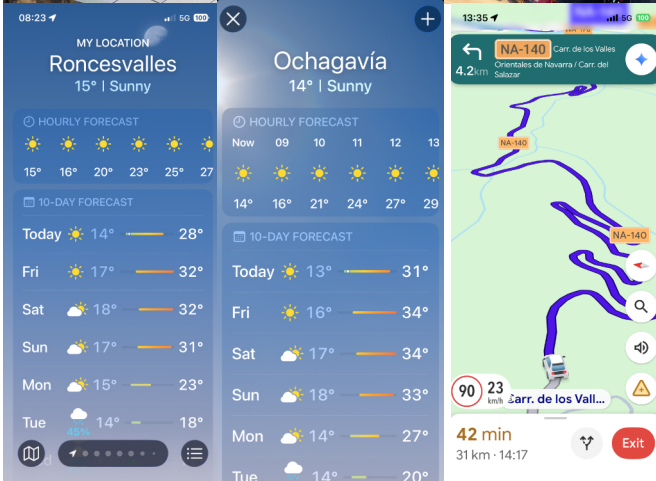
Motorhome Trek Spain & France

Gill & Alan Chard toured Spain & France by motorhome from late August to September; the plan was to head south from Santander to Granada, calling at Roman sites but the weather turned out so hot that our plans needed to change.

We drove to high elevation places in the Pyrenees to wait-out the heat, moving east staying at aires until we reached Canfranc Estación, at 1,195 meters (3,920 feet). Our change of plan brought unexpected surprises; a visit to the Rolls Royce museum at Torre Loizapa and several days spent next to the amazing Beaux Arts hotel at Canfranc, previously the border station between Spain and France. And of course plenty of good Spanish ham, cheese and wine in the shadow of the mountains.

Our motorhome battery decided that it had given its final spark and joined the great scrapheap in the sky. We had exceptional service from a small garage in Jaca where the battery was changed,





from arrival to departure was less than an hour, the mechanic leaving his allocated job to work on our vehicle to get it back on the road. We wondered if that would happen in the UK?

We made our way home through France and the Channel Tunnel back to England. 1,960 miles over 25 days.

Here is a selection of highs and lows in photos.

Text and photos: Alan Chard

A Kind Of Humour . . .

My teacher pointed at me with his ruler and said "At the end of this ruler there's an idiot!" I got detention after asking which end. [Think about it . . .]

I pretended to be asleep and I fell asleep. Now I'm going to pretend to be skinny.

Bread is a lot like the sun, it rises in the yeast and sets in the waist.

There was a huge fight at a fish restaurant, now there are battered fish everywhere.

A nurse came in and told the doctor there was a man in the waiting room who thinks he's invisible; What should I tell him? The doctor said tell him I can't see him today.

Jellyfish have survived for 650 million years without a brain. This gives hope to so many people.

Remember the three monkeys - there's now a fourth, he sees no one, hears no one and speaks to no one - he has a smartphone.

It's never too late to start exercising, that's why I'm waiting until later.

I took a long, hard look at myself this morning; I won't be doing that again.

I'll call it a smartphone when I yell "Where's my phone?" and it shouts back "Under the cushions on the settee!"

I just found out that the company that makes yardsticks will not be making them any longer.

A recent study found that humans eat more bananas than monkeys. I can't remember the last time I ate a monkey.

Apparently exercise helps you will decision making. It's true. I went for a run this morning and decided that I'll never do it again.

Using my invisible hula hoop really freaks people out.

Deep thought of the day: When you clean out a vacuum cleaner, you become a vacuum cleaner.

It's a 5 minute walk from my house to the pub. It's a 30 minute walk from the pub to my house. The difference is staggering.

When I discovered I was holding the Tazer the wrong way, I was stunned.

I accidentally drank invisible ink; now I'm at the hospital waiting to be seen.

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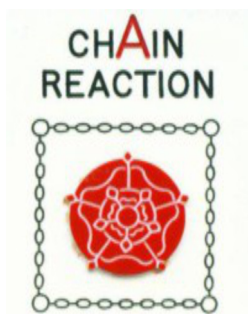
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Newsletter contributions to Alan Chard, please use the chainreactionsdc@gmail.com email to avoid being put in the junk folder.

Please keep your contributions to this newsletter coming, send by 28th October 2026 for the November edition.



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