CHAIN REACTION SDC Newsletter November 2026



Dancers at the Lakes Weekend October 2026

Lakes Weekend 2026

The event was a success, but it was a nervous time for the organisers because of low numbers with late bookings. Overall it made a small profit for the clubs but only thanks to the raffle. Thank you to all of you that bought raffle tickets or made a donation in lieu of taking tickets.

Thanks also to those that made cakes and other confectionery and donated raffle prizes and those who helped with the setting up and dismantling of decorations and equipment.

Some statistics

26 **Plus** dancers with 17 of them purchasing advance tickets.

26 **A** dancers with 18 of them purchasing advance tickets.

1 Mainstream dancer. (from Aberdeen)

4 dancers from Aberdeen Kilt Kickers.

2 from the Isle of Wight.

11 from Yorkshire .

5 from Sheffield/ Nottingham area .

4 from the Home Counties area.

3 from Cumbria.

the rest from our local areas.

Text Alan Chard & Brian Holman

Photos Alan Chard



Hall and Dancers



Di Green & Paul Bristow



Dancers at the ‘Challenge’ Weekend — High Wycombe

Lane End Challenge Weekend October 2026

The Lane End (near High Wycombe) challenge weekend took place on the second weekend in October at the Lane End Youth & Community Centre. It consisted of separate C1 and C2 sessions over the Friday evening, Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning.

Jurgen Loeder, who called is one of the top German and International challenge callers.

This event was organised by Liz Rickerby and Sue Elliot under the auspices of Thornbury Squares (Challenge).

We had 2 and 3 squares alternating and most of the other dancers (apart from our Chain Reaction Contingent) were C2 or C3A level.

After the Saturday afternoon session, instead of going out to the local gastro pub everyone orders a Chinese meal from the takeaway next door and we all had a communal Chinese banquet in the halls dining section.

Jurgen has a great way of getting us into unusual positions and then calling a move we all know, sometimes this ends well and sometimes it ends in disaster.

His party piece is getting us into one of these strange position and then while we are all thinking (with trepidation) “what now”, he calls bow to your partner and corner and its all over.

Sunday morning was highlighted with a session of “tallyho” from what seemed like a hundred different positions (in reality probably about twelve) many of which Di Green had done with us at Chain Reaction or Dicey Squares but it still makes you think.



Challenge Weekend

The Chain Reaction. contingent were Di Green & Terry McCann, Val Pemberton, Brian & Carol Holman, David Walker and Barbara Scott plus Michael Helfgott from Washington DC in the USA; Michael dances Di's C zoom session on Mondays, he was over in London on a visit and got the train up for the Saturday sessions.

Sunday afternoon was a long but fairly uneventful drive home.

Text Brian Holman

Photos David Walker

A Cruise Down The Seine

In early October Norman and Ann Wilson had a cruise along the Seine from Paris to Le Havre and back, sailing overnight and stopping at places of interest. The good news was that the new EU security system had been suspended and we were quickly through security into the Eurostar ”lounge”. The lounge itself was grossly overcrowded and

most unpleasant. In contrast he journey itself was comfortable.

Immediately on arriving in Paris we encountered a French custom. The first two locks on the river were out of action because of a strike. It meant joining the boat a little downstream. The remaining locks were all operating, the 11.4m wide boat passing through 12m locks without touching the sides.

Rouen was an interesting visit with its old streets and magnificent cathedral. Impressive was the Port Autonome bridge with a road platform that rises to 55 metres in 12 minutes. We also



Port Autonome Bridge

witnessed our first student demonstration about the state of French schools.

Le Havre had been a German stronghold as part of Hitler's Atlantic Wall. 85% was destroyed by Allied bombing in 1944, killing 5,500 people. The town was rebuilt by 1964 using a strict 6.24 meter modular square grid and precast concrete panels. It is considered to be an outstanding post-war example of urban planning and architecture.



Le Havre Architecture

The visit to Monet's house and garden at Giverny was much busier than when we visited with our children c1990. Flowers had been allowed to grow quite high so you could see few other visitors along the well-defined paths. Nevertheless, well worth a visit.



Eiffel Towers Colour History





Giverny — Monet's Garden

The final day walk round Paris took in coffee and cake and ended inevitably at the Eiffel Tower. Over the years the tower has been painted a variety of colours, currently jaune/brun.

On leaving the boat for the station we witnessed two more student demonstrations, noisy but peaceful. Our journey home was uneventful.

Text & photos Norman Wilson

A Kind Of Humour . . .

William Durant founded General Motors and Chevrolet. More importantly he founded Fridgiaire making him the very first Refrigerator Magnate.

I was drinking a cup of tea minding my own business, then all of sudden 1975 was 50 years ago.

The fact that there is a highway to hell and only a stairway to heaven says a lot about anticipated numbers.

I no longer post selfies; last time I posted one people sent me 'get well soon' messages.

This getting old is a terrible thing. I blacked out for twenty minutes this morning, then I realised that I'd put my hoodie on back-to-front.

Girls no longer cook like their mothers — they drink like their fathers.

You can tell a lot about a woman's mood from her hands; if they are holding a gun she's probably angry.

I didn't make it to the gym today, that makes 5 years in a row.

I really am sorry that you were upset when I called you stupid. I thought you already knew.

If I am ever on life support, unplug me, then plug me in backwards and see if that works.

This morning I was beaten up by a busty woman in an elevator. I was staring at her boobs and she said 'Please press one' — So I did and I don't remember much after that.

Three days I tried to understand the meaning of the word 'inconsequential', but everyone I asked kept saying it didn't really matter.

My husband suggested that we go to the pub separately to relive our first date. So he walked me over to the bar and asked 'Hi gorgeous, can I buy you a drink?' I replied 'Get lost! I'm not falling for that again.'

Reunions are a scam. Nobody really misses anyone; they just want to see who's put on the most weight.

Chain Reaction Contact Details

Jean Bransby	jeanbransby@hotmail.com 0779 596 7123
Alan Chard	chainreactionsdc@gmail.com 0759 865 8339
Brian Holman	brian204holman@btinternet.com 01524 811444 0737 999 6722
Val Pemberton	val8@talktalk.net 01253 700534
David Walker	davidweclipse@gmail.com 0788 637 6459

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 November 2026 for the December edition.

Advance Notice for 2027

North West & Lakes Weekend 2027 will be 8th to 10th October 2027 — make a note of it your diary and keep the dates free.