

LET'S SQUARE DANCE

(Email version)

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What's in this month's magazine

Regular Items

- BAASDC Management Team Contact Details (p 30)
- Callers' Corner (Paul Bristow) (P 13)
- Chuckle Zone (P 6)
- Ed Foote article (P 18)
- Editor says... (p 3)
- FFT article (none this month)
- Free listing of Open Dances (p 27)
- Inspirational quotes (Ed Foote (P 25)
- Presidential Musings (p 4)
- Publication Guidelines (P 332)
- Puzzle page (P 9)
- Puzzle answers (P 21)
- SDCCGB Article (Susie Kelly) (P 22)
- Six of the Best - Record Review (Paul Bristow) (P 24)

Articles

- P 5 Second-hand Square Dance clothing (Simon & Trudy Fielding)
- P 8 Note from the Treasurer regarding Direct Debits (Koli Pluck)
- P 10 Virtual Square Dancing (Doona Young - Australia)
- P 14 Square Dancing status in Germany (Wolfgang Daiss)
- P 16 Viking Sqaures Picnic (Judy Grummitt)
- P 20 Cloverleaf or Quatrafoil ? (Jon Pearson)
- P 21 Round Dancing under lockdown (Judi Read)
- P 23 The real history of Yellow Rock ??? ('Let's go Dancing' April 2018)

EDITOR SAYS.....

Hi again everyone.

It seems that my plan to find out how many readers we have, was a bit of a damp squib ! Thanks to all of you who did send your email for the count, but it seems that the link didn't work for a lot of people - we only had 120 replies - I hope that there are a lot more readers than that ! Sounded like a good idea at the time though.



Square Dance news is in rather short supply, though we did get an interesting letter from an Australian dancer who does Virtual Square Dancing almost every day ! (Page 10). Would-be Round Dancers are also invited to learn Rounds at home with Judi Read (page 21)

A letter from the President of the European Association of American Square Dancing Clubs (EAASDC) details the position of Square Dancing in Germany. Although this obviously only applies to Germany, you may find it interesting. I look forward to hearing more from EAASDC on how things progress - did they have problems ?

Many Clubs are making efforts to keep in touch with their Members; Viking Squares arranged a socially distanced picnic. (P 16) Please let us know if your Club has done anything different.

I'd be most grateful for anything that you think might interest or amuse our readers; just send me an email at LSDmag@talktalk.net.

Finally, I understand that a few Clubs have been printing out the magazine for those of their members who don't have an internet connection. I know this can be quite tricky and time-consuming, so I am preparing a .pdf file that will allow printing the mag. directly onto A4 paper, double sided. If you would like to make use of this, please drop me an email.

Keep well

Peter

Presidential Musings for September 2020

I know what you want me to tell you; sadly I can't, sorry! There is no news of when we can restart Square Dancing again. Your best source of news is our website which is updated daily.

The last time I engaged in Real Dancing was in March, a few days before Lock-down. Now, feeling decidedly un-match fit, out of condition and struggling to remember what day of the week it is, let alone square dance definitions; I decided to embark on a spot of Virtual Dancing henceforth to be known as V.D.

For your delectation I offer a light-hearted guide for newbie dancers to the V.D. world. Do not assume that V.D. just amounts to showing up, pressing the link, moving the sofa and squaring up. To maximise the benefits of V.D. remember 'Preparation is key'.

1. Allow plenty of time to prepare the dance space. Humping large pieces of furniture around (in my case alone) is no easy matter. It requires skill and energy both of which you will need in spades when the real V.D. starts.
2. Wear suitable footwear. After 20 minutes of shuffling around in fluffy slippers (no, not pink ones on this occasion, but thanks for asking) on carpet is not conducive to good body flow.
3. Allow yourself time for a pre-V.D. lie-down, your body will have forgotten just how tiring dancing is.
4. Make sure that snacks and beverages are readily accessible.
5. Dancing indoors is preferable to outdoors. On one occasion, on a particularly hot and humid night I danced on my patio having flung open, yes with gay abandon, my French doors. All was going so well, I had even chalked out the position of the dancers and the flagpole, when a succession of emergency vehicles were heard driving like 'The Dukes of Hazzard' along the nearby main road. As night fell the bats were out and about. But what finally drove me indoors was after a spectacular display of 'Donner and Blitzen' there followed a sudden heavy downpour. I quickly retreated inside. Couldn't go out again - it had washed away my chalk marks !!!

I would recommend all dancers to give it as go; you don't have to dance, it is just as interesting and useful to sit and listen to the moves. Also it is wonderful to meet up with dancers from other countries. I dance regularly to Di Green and Terry McCann and they have dancers from Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, USA, Russia, Wales, Belgium France and of course us Brits! When Terry ends his tips he always asks 'Are you home?' To which I reply (under my breath) yes Terry I'm AT HOME, but not always in my Home Position. Of course, the beauty of V.D. is that nobody knows if you go wrong, so please don't tell him that I sometimes do! Thanks and Stay Safe.

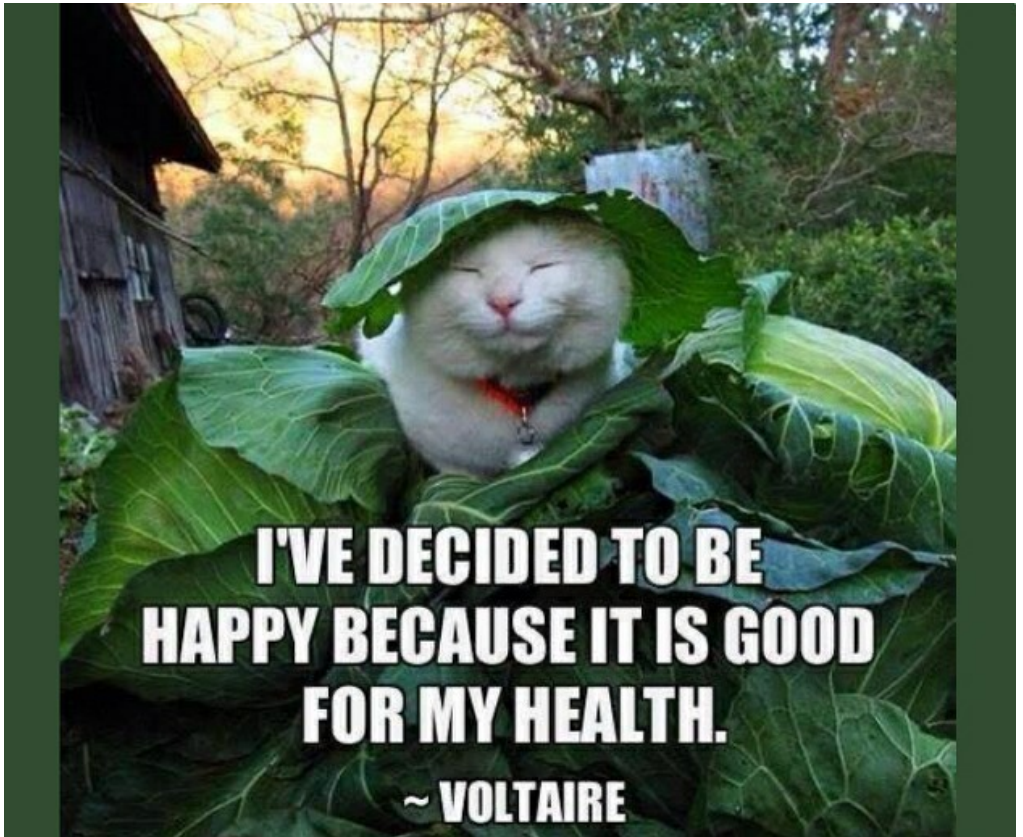
Let's make Square and Round Dancing great again !



Secondhand Square Dance clothing.

Due to the high volume of stock currently being held and the ongoing absence of dancing, regrettably the 2nd Hand Square Dance clothing shop (run by Simon and Trudy Fielding) is not able, for the foreseeable future, to accept any further donations.

Thank you – Simon and Trudy Fielding





Chuckle Zone

An elderly man in Queensland had owned a large property for several years. He had a dam in one of the lower paddocks where he had planted mango and avocado trees. The dam had been fixed up for swimming when it was built and he also had some picnic tables placed there in the shade of the fruit trees. One evening the old farmer decided to go down to the dam to look it over, as he hadn't been there for a while. He grabbed a ten litre bucket to bring back some fruit. As he neared the dam, he heard voices shouting and laughing with glee. As he came closer he saw it was a bunch of young women skinny-dipping in his dam. He made the women aware of his presence and they all went to the deep end. One of the women shouted to him, 'We' re not coming out until you leave!' The old man frowned, 'I didn't come down here to watch you ladies swim naked or make you get out of the dam naked.' Holding the bucket up he said, 'I'm here to feed the crocodile.'

Moral: Old men may walk slow, but they can still think fast

Old ranch owner John farmed a small ranch in Montana. The Montana Wage and Hour Department claimed he was not paying proper wages to his workers and sent an agent out to interview him.

'I need a list of your employees and how much you pay them,' demanded the agent.

'Well,' replied old John, 'There's my ranch hand who's been with me for 3 years. I pay him \$600 a week plus free room and board. The cook has been here for 18 months, and I pay her \$500 a week plus free room and board. Then there's the half-wit who works about 18 hours every day and does about 90% of all the work around here. He makes about \$10 per week, pays his own room and board and I buy him a bottle of bourbon every Saturday night.'

'That's the guy I want to talk to, the half-wit,' says the agent.

'That would be me,' replied old rancher John.

An Englishman, a Frenchman and an Irishman were in a pub talking about their children.

'My son was born on St George's Day,' remarked the Englishman, 'So we obviously decided to call him George.'

'That's a real coincidence', observed the Frenchman, 'My daughter was born on Valentine's Day, so we decided to call her Valentine.'

'That's really incredible', drawled the Irishman, 'Exactly the same thing happened with my son Pancake.'

BAASDC AGM 2020

via Zoom

11.00am – 12 noon

Saturday 17th October 2020

**The meeting will be open to one nominated
Representative per Club.**

**Please send your email details to baasdc.it@gmail.com
no later than Monday 5th October 2020 to be included.**

Men Are Just Happier People - a few reasons why !

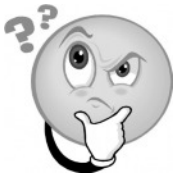
What do you expect from such simple creatures? Your last name stays put. The garage is all yours. Wedding plans take care of themselves. Chocolate is just another snack. You can never get pregnant. You can wear a white T-shirt to a water park, you can wear NO shirt to a water park. Car mechanics tell you the truth. You never have to drive to another service station restroom because this one is just too icky. You don't have to stop and think of which way to turn a nut on a bolt. Same work, more pay! Wrinkles add character. Wedding dress £3000; Suit rental - £100. People never stare at your chest when you're talking to them. New shoes don't cut, blister, or mangle your feet, and three pairs are more than enough. Phone conversations are over in 30 seconds flat. A five-day holiday requires only one suitcase. You can open all your own jars. You get extra credit for the slightest act of thoughtfulness. If someone forgets to invite you, he or she can still be your friend. Your underwear is £6 for a three-pack. You are unable to see wrinkles in your clothes. Everything on your face stays its original colour. The same hairstyle lasts for years, maybe decades. You only have to shave your face and neck. You can play with toys all your life. One wallet will last for years. You can wear shorts no matter how your legs look. You have freedom of choice concerning growing a moustache. Of course men are happier !

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2020

Just a note from our Treasurer, that all Direct Dedit payments for 'Let's Square Dance' due to be taken out in September have been cancelled. The pdf magazine is FREE

Koli Pluck





Puzzle Time

Answers on page 21

All answers to the following questions contain the word “square”.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 1. Umpire’s position in cricket | 8. Take a fighting stance |
| 2. Nelson has a column there | 9. Product of 2 equal numbers |
| 3. Clear of debt or obligation | 10. Firmly and solidly; straight |
| 4. Settle a debt, make even | 11. 10000 in a hectare |
| 5. A misfit | 12. Geometrical instrument |
| 6. 5 is to 25 | 13. Kicking parallel to the goal line (soccer) |
| 7. 64 on a chess board | 14. Providing abundant nourishment |
| | 15. Within the rules; honestly |

A school bus travels from Veldhoven to Roosendaal. There are four children in the bus. Each child has four backpacks with him. There are four dogs sitting in each backpack. Every dog has four puppies with her. All these dogs have four legs, with four toes on each leg.

How many toes on the bus ?

And a few Gardening dingbats - just say what you see !

1

Ants ants ants
ants ants ants
ants ants ants
ants

MAIN

2

digging
digging

3

sythia
sythia
sythia
sythia

4

scented
↑ ↑ ↑

5

brids brids brids

6

llayawn

Virtual Dancing (from Australia)

I've just enjoyed the August LSD edition and I'm waiting til midnight to dance to Tony Collingwood. Such is our new world of Virtual Dancing, where we can join with callers and fellow dancers around the world.

I read with interest the comments by David and Sandra England about the fun of dancing with fellow enthusiasts from around the world. I've joined Di Green for some of her dances. I've enjoyed Rounds with Matt Baldry on his Sunday dances - He's been calling Virtually for about 4-5 months. Matt has sadly stopped these dances and I'm yet to find other Rounds at a suitable time for UK dancers.

What is Virtual dancing? And why do I like it?

Virtual dancing uses an app called Zoom - unheard of 6 months ago and now very common for church, family, sport, hobby and social gatherings. My brother has been sailing thru the Panama Canal and down to Tahiti and around the islands there for the last few months - with very limited internet access. I am a very non- tech person, and I laugh that I had to tell my highly skilled brother about Zoom. You can download it on your phone, your laptop or your computer. Each dance is given a log in number - like a telephone number. One logs onto zoom, plugs in the appropriate 10 or 11 digit number, and you can see the caller and all the other dancers. Hey bingo - you have a meeting!! With laughter and greetings and chatter and caller banter. No hugs - but everything else!

Virtual Dancing assumes you are dancing in the number 3 position, facing the camera. This sort of dancing can be done as a single or a couple. No more wondering if you have a square or if you have a partner.

The caller calls - from anywhere in the world - and we dance - in our lounges , verandah or kitchen. 2 X 2 metres is ample. Challenge dancers will reduce this space to about 1.5 m squared. You don't need a lot of space.

How do I find the dances?

I use a Facebook group called 'Virtual Square Dances' - based in America - which lists more than 30 dances a week, at all levels, and all times. Finding the zoom number is the trick. Some callers list it on the VSD FB site. Some callers advise dancers thru an email list, and reminder every week. Maybe dancers can use family or other dancers to help them find appropriate dances. Most dances are weekly. When you use the VSD site, you are looking for dances in the USA daytime/afternoon - that will translate to evening UK dances.

No one expected the world to change like it has. No one expected shut downs would last so long.

As more and more callers and dancers realise how much we love our activity, and how long this is progressing, new virtual dances are being added almost daily. There is plenty of choice - to choose a dance at a time and programme of your choice.

Continued on next page

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2020

Benefits - totally safe, with no driving. Exercise, laughter and friendship, both old and new. Maintaining and extending skills.

Costs - There are NONE! Some callers maintain a Tip Jar, for voluntary donations - strictly voluntary!

Some history

There is not much! Virtual dancing started in Australia, in Perth, in March 2020, with the Swan Valley Dancers and caller, Greg Fawell, hosting an evening much like a club night. There were squares and rounds and a line dance, a lucky member draw and Presidents remarks. Dancers from around the world joined in. Worldwide friends have been made.

The very next night, Mike Dusoe, from Maine, USA, called a dance.

Another caller and dancer, Denise Carbonell, ran with the idea and stated the FB group, "Virtual Square Dances". It now boasts over 1800 members.

Like working from home, or online shopping, the world is changing - maybe virtual dancing will be part of our dancing experience and joy for some people.

Some good news - Western Australia has resumed in person square dancing! State and overseas borders are still closed there and Covid has been kept at bay. (This was written early August). Swan Valley is no longer calling virtually, as they have the joy of returning to the real thing.

Virtual dancing is developing its own traditions and festivals. A few weeks ago, there was a new caller dance - surely, important encouragement and experience.

Denise is promoting a weekend festival dance in late August, with sessions over the weekend at different times and a social hour around the campfire. This festival costs \$10.00US. I realise this will over by the next LSD publishing date, but its an example of what is happening in the virtual world.

Dancers new to zoom are being encouraged also- with sessions specifically tailored to their needs - how to make zoom work, how to use the screen, how to mute yourself, how to imagine the other dancers. Easy calls are given slowly, to help dancers adjust to this new way of dancing. Imagine people in front of you - now "Right and Left Thru". Look for Caller Lorne Smith, from Canada, who says he will run another class in the autumn.

I liken zoom dancing to hitting a tennis ball against a wall - or shooting basketball hoops on your own. It's not the real thing, but in the company of others, its fun and challenging. And when we make mistakes, no one cares!! We are not breaking a square.

We dance on our own, but there are maybe 100 screens of fellow dancers. We have company.

Virtual dances in Europe

I live in Melbourne, Australia, but travel frequently to Europe, UK and USA to

Concluded on next page

dance and see my daughter in London. (No travelling in 2020, of course - and probably not 2021!)

I don't know much about virtual callers from Europe, as the times are so dreadful for me!! Maybe other readers can fill in these gaps.

Challenge dancers have a strong network, and we can dance to Tony Collingwood (UK), Joachim Ruenbeck (Ger), Ett McAttee (USA), Don Moger (Canada), to name a few. Fabulous callers at our fingertips.

This has become rather a long epistle. I love my dancing and wanted to share the joys in this rather dreary world, stuck at home. My state, Victoria, has massive uncontrolled outbreaks and no group activities will resume this year, I feel. I zoom dance every day with joy and thankfulness for my dance community.

Doona Young

QUOTABLE QUOTES

(well, sort of) More words of wisdom that have been attributed to some of our well-known Australian and overseas callers (these all come from extremely reliable sources whose honesty and integrity is above reproach).

- "Money used to talk. Now it goes without saying" – Ed Foote
- "About the time you are financially secure enough to eat, drink and be merry, the doctor limits you to a glass of milk" – Glenn Ickler
- "Children are a comfort in old age – and how quickly do they bring it on!" – Barry Wonson
- "I used to be an all-round athlete – now I'm just all round" – Jet Roberts
- "There are probably better cures for the common cold than three glasses of scotch, but who cares?" – Mike Seastrom
- "When I was at the airport in March I abused the baggage handler. My case comes up next month" – Mel Wilkerson
- "Wine improves with age: The older I get, the more I like it" – Wade Driver
- "The only thing that is worse than hardness of the heart is softness of the head" – Mike Sikorski
- "Some callers enjoy the comfort of opinion without the discomfort of thought" – Jack Pladdys
- "My golf has improved so much that I now miss the ball a lot closer than I used to" – Mark Clausing

(from "Around the Square" Barry Wonson)

Caller's Corner

by **PAUL BRISTOW**
(CALLERLAB Accredited Caller Coach)

Understanding Degree of Difficulty

When you evaluate the use of a "Module" (a single Call or a short list of individual Calls) you must consider many criteria; very important amongst these is the problems that may be caused just by using the Call in it's simplest form - and how these might be extended by adjusting starting Formations and/or Arrangements as well as nominated hand usage. This is known as the "Degree of Difficulty", which could be considered as a graduated scale from 1 to 10 - where 1 is the easiest and 10 the most difficult:

1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5 - 6 - 7 - 8 - 9 - 10

This is an extremely subjective assessment and will vary from Caller to Caller and from dance group to dance group; however, you can use a scale like this as a comparator.

Consider something which should be quite simple: Heads Square Thru - starting from a Static Square (everybody at home waiting for a Call). On the scale of 1 to 10 this would probably be valued at 1 or 2 - if the Dancers are in a "Normal" Arrangement (Boys on the Left and Girls on the Right). This evaluation will increase if you change the starting formation to Half Sashayed Couples; it would go up to something like 2 to 3. If you start with same sex couples facing (i.e. 2 Boys Facing 2 Boys, or 2 Girls facing 2 Girls), the Degree of Difficulty "score" could be taken to have risen to 3 or 4. If you then use the left hand (i.e. call Left Square Thru) this would increase the difficulty still further - all the "scores" could increase by 1 or 2. By and large, Heads Square Thru is not a very difficult Call, so let's find one that is more difficult.

Again starting from the Static Square, we could ask the Heads to Swing Thru - this Call is inherently difficult, as it will require the Dancers to understand that they must first step forward and Step to a Wave, before they can carry out the Call, so it will probably be valued at 3 to 4, or higher if non-standard couples (as mentioned above) are asked to do the Call. If you ask them to do a Left Swing Thru from Facing Couples, this will raise the value significantly, probably to 4 or 5, (or higher for non-standard couples).

If you then combine these two ideas, the Degree of Difficulty will increase still further, for example: (starting from the Static Square) Heads Left Square Thru - but on your fourth hand - Swing Thru, this must rate as a 6 or 7. Alternatively, (again starting from the Static Square): Heads Left Swing Thru into a Left Square Thru, this will push the count up to the 7 - 8 mark. You might even consider (from the Static Square again): Heads Left Swing Thru into a Left Square Thru - but on your fourth hand - Swing Thru, you must now be somewhere in the region of an 8 - 9 level of Degree of Difficulty.

Of course Degree of Difficulty can be reduced significantly by careful pre-planning on the part of the Caller and - if he (or she) takes the time to work out how to help the Dancers to achieve the more difficult interpretations - this can be one way of ensuring the Dancer's success, which is always the most important thing that a Caller needs to consider. General understanding of the Degree of Difficulty is essential when Calling.

*The following was received from Wolfgang Daiss (President of the European American Square Dancing Association) and although this is obviously only applicable to Germany, it make interesting reading and could give clues as to what might happen here in the future. **Please note that it in no way represents the current situation in the UK. BAASDC and the UK Callers Club are working on a joint document explaining the UK position.***

In Germany the lock down is being released further and further and in some counties SD is allowed again in groups up to 20 or 30 people. A lot of clubs are still in the fear of bad developments and therefore wait with the restart, but some clubs have started dancing again. Presently 3 Clogging Clubs, 11 Round Dance Clubs and about 50 Square Dance Clubs (equals 14 % of our clubs) enjoy dancing and hope that nothing bad will happen. The document below explains the German Authorities approach.

Square Dance Practice

Order of the ministry for education and the ministry for social affairs concerning sports dated 1/July/2020

Conducting of training and practice

- 1 For the conducting of training and practice apply in addition to the regulations stated in § 2 also the regulations stated in parts 2 to 4 as well as § 9 of the Corona Regulations Act.
- 2 During the complete duration of the training and practice times a minimum distance of 1,5m has to be kept between all persons present; excepted from this are sport, play, and practice situations that are typical for the practice session.
- 3 Where the practice is conducted in groups, a mixing between the groups is to be avoided.
- 4 Where a close physical contact is necessary over a prolonged period of time, training partners should possibly remain constant during each session.
- 5 The paragraphs above also apply to corresponding offers from other educational institutions of any kind in accordance with § 14.1.6 Corona Regulation Act.

.....
For further clarification also on the mention of constant training partners in (4) an inquiry was made of the Ministry of Education and was answered as follows:

Dear Mr.

Thank you very much for your inquiry. During the complete duration of the training and practice times a minimum distance of 1,5m has to be kept between all persons present; excepted from this are sport, play, and practice situations that are typical for the practice session (§ 3.2 Corona Regulation Sport).

The situations described by you are typical in Square Dancing. Square Dancing is therefore allowed again. It constitutes a constant group of eight persons.

(4) refers to classic couple dancing or wrestling.

Best Regards

Michael Schreiner (Minister for Education, Youth and Sport. Baden Wurttemberg)

Additional step necessary:

Presentation of a concept for approval by the lessor of the dancing localities. If the lessor is a public office, city or community, etc. sometimes special forms are available (possibly on the internet) that have to be filled in. If the lessor is a company, club, restaurant, etc. and has no form available, here's the most simple example of what such a concept could look like:

Corona Concept for Square Dancing Practice (as of 11/7/2020)
(Germany only)

- The number of participants counting all persons present is limited to 20.
- For the practice sessions constant groups of eight persons are formed.
- Figures with close body contact (Hi di ho, squeeze, swing...) should be avoided or reduced to a minimum. Promenade should be done just holding hands.
- The distance between the squares should be 2-3m. The leader should keep a distance of 3m from the squares at all times
- Outside the practice situation a minimum distance of 1,5m has to be kept between persons.
- The hygiene procedures have to be followed and the dancers have to be made aware of them. Hand washing and/or disinfecting after each dance unit (each tip).
- People who show symptoms of an illness (e.g. fever, coughing, etc.) or are in quarantine are excluded from participation.
- The room has to be vented regularly, either after each tip or at least every 45 minutes.
- Documentation of participants (has to be kept for 4 weeks): Name (First and Last), phone, e-mail or postal address
- Date, starting and ending time of the practice night
- Data protection notice: 'The collection and processing of personal data is based on the pursuit of justified interests in acc. with Art. 6.1f) GDPR, for the purpose of reconstructing a possible infection chain in connection with the corona virus.'
- Naming of a responsible person for the conduction of the practice.

VIKING SQUARES

We were wondering how we could possibly get our club members together after such a long break from dancing. We came up with idea of a Bring you own Picnic and sent out an email to all of our members. The response was overwhelming in favour of some kind of safe, socially distancing meet up.



On the morning of Friday 7th August it was looking like it was going to be a perfect day for a picnic. With lots of space under the trees and canopies providing shade from what was becoming an increasingly hot day we awaited the arrival of our fellow dancers. And sure enough they came along ready to enjoy a good catch up.



Continued on next page

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2020

What a wonderful afternoon we had, lots of laughter and chatting. When it was time for everyone to leave there were so many requests of when can we do this again? So hopefully we will come up with a way of doing



something similar in a safe way to try and keep the interest going in our much loved activity.

After everyone had left we started to take down the bunting and clear things away only to find that there was not one single piece of rubbish left, everyone had been brilliant and taken everything away with them. Thanks to everyone who came along to make it a memorable occasion for one and all.

Judy Grummitt Viking Squares

Next in the series of articles by Ed Foote.

HOW TO SAVE YOUR SQUARE



YOU can save your square! YOU individually can be the person to keep your square going and keep it from breaking down. Here's how to do it.

1. **TAKE HANDS WITH THOSE STANDING BESIDE YOU.** This must be done immediately after completing every call. Not only does this help you see the new formation of the square, it helps others see it too. If people can see their starting formation, then they are much more likely to complete the next call.

Weak dancers tend not to take hands. (This is one reason they are weak.) If they break down, they will take you along with them, so it is in your best interest to take their hands, even if they do not offer them.

Important: When hands are joined, elbow must be bent. If arms are outstretched when hands are touching, the set is much too large to operate smoothly.

2. **KEEP YOUR HEAD TURNED TOWARD THE CENTER OF THE SQUARE.** This gives you the big picture, it lets you know exactly where you should be, where trouble spots might be starting, and whether you should speed up or slow down your steps in order to keep everyone together.

The majority of the time your head will be turned to the right, since many calls are presented in a counter-clockwise flow which has the square moving to the right. But looking to the left will also be necessary.

Weak dancers use tunnel vision. They just look straight ahead and hope they will survive the next call. It only takes 2 or 3 dancers in the square who have their heads always turned toward the center to keep the square going. Decide that YOU will be one of these people.

Bottom line: Your head should be constantly in motion while you dance, always looking for the big picture. Do this and YOU will save your square.

3. **KEEP THE SET SMALL.** Basic rule: The smaller the square, the fewer the breakdowns. There are several ways to keep the square small.

(A) Take hands after every call. (b) Bend your elbows when you take hands. (C) Take small steps. This will force other people to also take smaller steps, and thus the square becomes smaller.

Continued on next page

4. ALWAYS HAVE YOUR SQUARE LINED UP WITH THE WALLS. Sometimes a set will become slightly offset from being lined up with walls; now a Cast Off or other turning motion may cause some people to become disoriented, which can cause them to break down on the next call. If the caller says: "Promenade, don't slow down, heads (or sides) Wheel Around," it is almost guaranteed that the square will not be lined up with walls. Solution: Take it upon yourself to make slight adjustments on the next 2 or 3 calls to get the set aligned with walls. This means either slightly overdoing or under-doing some calls. This will cause others next to you to do this also, and thus the set slowly becomes aligned with the walls.

If the caller pauses after calling the "Wheel Around" before giving the next call, you can try signaling the square while it is standing there to adjust slightly to align with the walls. The dancers will go along with you, because most don't know anything about walls and will follow anyone who seems to know what they are doing.

Note: If the caller sees you making an effort to try and get the square aligned with walls, he/she will know you are a good dancer and will watch you for the entire dance. It's a nice feeling to know that the caller needs you to successfully complete his/her program.

SUMMARY: If you do everything listed here, YOU will save your square. You will also become recognized as a good dancer who knows what is going on.

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTES

"A friend is one that knows you as you are, understands where you have been, accepts what you have become, and still, gently allows you to grow."
...William Shakespeare

"But as for me, I will always have hope." ...Psalm 71: 14

"It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it." ...Aristotle

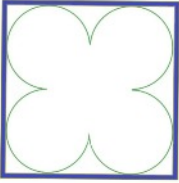
"People grow through experience if they meet life honestly and courageously. This is how character is built." ...Eleanor Roosevelt

"Set your sights high, the higher the better. Expect the most wonderful things to happen, not in the future but right now. Realize that nothing is too good. Allow absolutely nothing to hamper you or hold you up in any way."
...Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba

(from Ed Foote's collection)

(I asked if folk would let us know what they've been up to during lockdown. Jon Pearson from Cheltenham sent in the following.)

Cloverleaf or Quatrefoil?



Is this Heads pass thru and Cloverleaf? In the architecture of tracery windows, this is known as a quatrefoil.

Inspired by drawings from an old geometry textbook, dating back to 1894, I have used time generated by lockdown to produce a geometry blog, looking at designs of arches and tracery windows.

The challenge has been to draw these constructions, initially using pencil and standard school geometry tools, and then to use free downloadable software to construct them electronically.

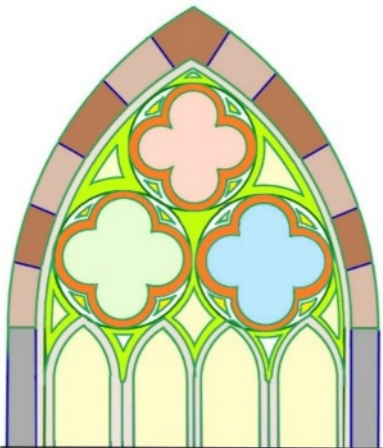
The journey can be seen in more detail on the blog. Can you name 12 different types of arches? Answers on my blog:

(<https://jpperu2014.wixsite.com/geometricdesigns>) and can you construct them?



Exploring Tracery windows simply left me in awe of the skill of our ancestors with the design and construction of windows used in so many historic buildings in many countries over the past 1000 years. I include here three interesting designs and my final challenge so far, three windows placed in an equilateral arch.

At the time of writing, the only feedback has been from my mother in law, who said the constructions were too complicated, so you can accept the challenge to construct these shapes, or merely download a picture and colour it in or embellish it with your own design. Any feedback welcome.



Jon Pearson (Cheltenham SDC)

Round Dancing under lockdown:

At present no Round Dance clubs are meeting and no beginners classes are recruiting, so it has been suggested we try to offer some "long distance" instruction to help less experienced and non-dancers to learn or revise some basic figures in the core rhythms. We will post to a website written and "Talk & Walk Through" definitions, pictures and some video-clips and Practice modules.

You can practise alone or with a partner within your social bubble, in your house, garden or patio. Initially an Intro to TwoStep will be available, hopefully early in September, but we will add other rhythms later if there is sufficient interest.

For access to the website or more information please e-mail Judi & Michael Read:

RD_instruction@outlook.com

When the situation improves and clubs and dances resume, take every opportunity to "have a go" Cuers never mind newer dancers making mistakes, and you will be surprised how quickly you improve once you get on the dance floor.

The instructional material offered free of charge on the website, together with any supporting material offered on DVD for a nominal charge, is intended for self guided learning by individuals and couples only and may not be shared with others. It may NOT be used to instruct a class or at any public event either free of charge or fee paying.

Judi Read

Answers to puzzles on page 9

Squares

- | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. SQUARE LEG, | 8. SQUARE UP, SQUARE OFF, |
| 2. TRAFALGAR SQUARE, | 9. PERFECT SQUARE, SQUARE |
| 3. ALL SQUARE, | NUMBER, |
| 4. SQUARE UP, MAKE SQUARE, | 10. SQUARELY, |
| 5. A SQUARE PEG IN A ROUND HOLE, | 11. SQUARE METRE, |
| 6. SQUARE ROOT, | 12. SET SQUARE, T SQUARE. |
| 7. SQUARES, | 13. SQUARE PASS, |
| | 14. SQUARE MEAL, |
| | 15. FAIR AND SQUARE. |

How many toes ?

5170 (did you remember the driver ?)

Gardingbats

- | | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| 1. Low Maintenance | 2. Double digging | 3. Forsythia |
| 4. Scented rose | 5. Hibrids | 6. Layin' a lawn |

The Square Dance Caller's Club of Great Britain

www.Callersclub.uk

Lockdown Squares



Most church and school halls are still closed and despite some community centres opening, it is not looking good for squares this side of Christmas. Protective bubbles are one of the issues; they just do not fit too well into squares. Until the restrictions allow eight people from different households to meet indoors, we are stuck, and even then, you may have to stick to that same square bubble all night. In reality it may only be possible to

dance squares if all restrictions are lifted. After all imposing physical distancing while wearing face masks and gloves, would make the whole experience rather unpleasant.

An important element of dance is the social interaction and sadly, at times like this, it is often overlooked. I strongly suggest, that if you haven't already, you should try taking part in a social media gathering. These can be a lot of fun and can strengthen community spirit. It could be with your square dance club, but you shouldn't restrict yourself; there are many wonderful groups out there, covering everything from A to Z. Widening your social circle, even at times like this, could be a great way of introducing new friends to square dancing. If you are interested in giving social media a go and you are not too sure how to get started, just ask.

Just as important also is physical exercise. Many have taken up walking, but this can be restricted by your location and the weather (yes, I had to mention it!). With the restrictions as they are, throwing dancers together in a square to intermix is a "No, No". However, there are alternatives you might consider.

Round Dance Bubbles

When you watch a couple dancing, they are clearly in a self-contained bubble, they will only need to maintain social distancing from other couples. Even two single dancers may be able to form a bubble for a club night, while following good hygiene recommendations. It is possible that, with a partial lifting of restrictions, as has happened in other sectors, Rounds may be able to restart from September onwards.

This would present an opportunity for everyone to exercise before squares restart, and could be an enjoyable bonus, building confidence and stamina in preparation for squaring up for the first time in what might be the best part of a year. Learning the basic steps of a dance rhythm can be done in just a few weeks. Actually, there are many simple dances that can be learnt in a single session. If this interests you, again just ask.

Squares and rounds are about fun and friendship, so I recommend you get out there on social media and socialise and, when you can, get some exercise and try some couple dancing; it might just surprise you.

The Real History of Yellow Rock??

Choreography today consists of many moves that have been developed, documented and carefully defined by our governing boards for worldwide conformity. There is one notable exception? "Yellow Rock." You will not find "yellow rock" in the documented square dance lexicon but it is a recognized caller command. Some square dance places, have the symbolic "yellow rock" at the entrance to announce that "friendship is spoken here."

According to the world wide web no one is quite sure of the origin of the yellow rock tradition, or even if it was, or is, peculiar to square dancing. Myth has it that many kindred souls proclaimed that a friendly embrace was as precious as a boulder of gold, hence, the "yellow rock" tradition was born.

However, reading the latest issue of "Behind the Mike" I came across this article by Barry Wonson & Mel Wilkerson who claimed that: "At or around the mid 1800's – through to the early 1900's, during the time of the "gold rushes" in western United States, when someone struck "yellow rock" it meant gold and riches. (both sources agree here) It was a time of jubilant celebration, often with everyone adjacent to the land parcel of claim tenure suddenly benefiting from location of the strike. This was a joyous occasion as many "rushers" were just living from day to day. Usually a token was given to the corner claim owners so that they could stake the next claim along a creek or river with the assay department and have better luck next time. This was known as giving a "yellow rock" to the corner and celebrating with a hug and a drink. The term yellow rock became known as the celebratory hug with someone other than a partner claimant.

The most common form of community celebration dancing at that time was the form known as 'square' or 'barn' dancing. Of course it was only a matter of time until the term 'yellow rock' was added to the general routines in dances as a celebratory measure at the conclusion of those dance routines. Dance prompters of the day incorporated the term to mean give someone (other than your partner) a hug.

Now of course, if you got this far and have done your research; you will know right off that I (Barry/Mel) just made all that up. But hey, this is as good a story as any!!!!

"Yellow rock" is called, sometimes frequently, by many callers when dancers are assembled in a square and preparing to participate in a bracket. At hearing the command, dancers turn to their corner for a brief, but friendly embrace. It is a great icebreaker when there are unacquainted dancers in the square, and even if there aren't. It is the one universally recognized call for which no detailed definition is required.

Fact or fiction, what do you think???? (Taken from Let's Go Dancing April 2018)



Six Of The Best

Reviews of Square Dance releases
from other labels by

PAUL BRISTOW

(owner and producer of *STING & SNOW* records)



Wouldn't it be Nice ~ Mike Seastrom

Rhythm RR 369 (Original Artists: *The Beach Boys*)

A song written by Brian Wilson, Tony Asher and Mike Love for the American rock band the Beach Boys; it was released as the opening track on their 1966 album "Pet Sounds". Its lyrics describe a couple in love - lamenting about being too young to run off to get married. Rhythm Records present a faithful rendition of the tune, using a lot of the original musical style. This is excellent music and features Mike Seastrom on the vocal!

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Promenade Halfway, Square Thru Four Square Thru Three, Trade By, Touch a Quarter, Scootback, Swing.*

No More Cloudy Days ~ Charlie Robertson

Arrowhead ARROW 1144 (Original Artists: *The Eagles*)

This is a track taken from the 2007 album: "Long Road Out of Eden", it was written and the vocal performed by band member Glen Frey. The album was the sixth to secure a number one spot on the listings, for the Eagles. Arrowhead have produced this with a really good "Eagles" style, faithful to the original and using the "Middle Eight" lyrics in the breaks. Charlie Robertson provides a clear vocal that fits perfectly with the track!

Mainstream Figure: *Square Thru Four, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Bend the Line, Right and Left Thru, Flutterwheel, Slide Thru, Swing and Promenade.*

Died in your Arms Tonight ~ Christian Sorge

Sharpshooter SS 1061 (Original Artists: *Cutting Crew*)

A song by the English pop rock band: "Cutting Crew", the song was released as the lead single from their debut studio album: "Broadcast" in 1986; first in the UK in July 1986 and in the US in January 1987. The song was the band's biggest hit and was written by band member and frontman: Nick Van Eede. Sharpshooter have used music close to the original, with a great Bass Line - and a first-rate vocal track from Christian Sorge!

Mainstream Choreography: *Heads Square Thru, Swing Thru, Boys Run Tag the Line, Cloverleaf, Girls Square Thru Three, Swing and Promenade.*

Ain't Nothing a Beer Can't Fix ~ Gary Smith

Solid Gold SG 1032 (Original Artist: *Thomas Rhett*)

A really modern tune, released in January 2020; it is the third single to be taken from Thomas Rhett's fourth studio album: "Center Point Road" (2019), Thomas Rhett wrote the song with Julian Bunetta, Ryan Tedder, and Zach Skelton. The sentiment of the song is given by the title - but it is intended as a "fun tune". Some strong, top-quality instrumentation and a great rhythm, with Gary Smith providing a well-rounded vocal!

Mainstream Figure: *Lead Right, Pass Thru, Trade By, Right and Left Thru Swing Thru, Boys Run, Tag the Line - Girls go Left, Boys go Right, Swing.*

Crash Course in the Blues ~ Doug Davies

Chinook CK 427 (Original Artist: Steve Wariner)

Steve Wariner released his tenth album: "I Am Ready" in 1991 and this was one of five singles taken from the album; it was released in September 1992. Steve Wariner wrote the track, together with Don Cook and John Barlow Jarvis. The lyrics tell about meeting the type of Girl that Daddy told you to avoid! It has an upbeat feel, with a clever use of rhythm breaks that work really well on the music, featuring an excellent vocal by Doug!

Mainstream Figure: *Square Thru Four, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Ferris Wheel Pass Thru, Touch a Quarter, Scootback, Scootback, Swing, Promenade.*

I Washed my Face in the Morning Dew ~ Kaneko Jr.

Riverboat RIV 982 (Original Artist: Tom T Hall)

Thomas T. Hall is a country music songwriter, singer, instrumentalist, novelist, and short-story writer from Kentucky, he has written 12 No. 1 hit songs, with 26 more that reached the Top 10. This track appeared on his 1967 album: "Ballad of Forty Dollars". Riverboat have created some outstanding music, with a powerful beat and some clean and clear instrumentation; the vocal is by Kaneko Jr - a very talented Japanese Caller.

Mainstream Figure: *Square Thru Four, Swing Thru, Boys Run, Tag the Line - In, Pass Thru Wheel and Deal, Zoom, Double Pass Thru, Leads turn back.*

You can listen to (and buy) Square Dance releases from ALL active Music Producers at:

www.musicforcallers.com



web-site - web-site

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STING & SNOW RECORDS

www.stingproductions.co.uk



web-site - web-site

July &
August

STING RECORDS Releases:

(Originally included on the 2018 Edition of the Sting Productions Ambassador Club)

STING 21811 Maybe it's because I'm a Londoner (Paul Bristow)

STING 21801 Back in your Arms Again (Wil Stans)

STING 21851 Serendipity/Excelsior (double instrumental patter)

STING 21815 Sunshine, Lollipops and Rainbows (Cherish)

STING 21813 Somewhere in my Car (Ingvar Pettersson)

STING 21802 Chains (Ralf Bender)

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+44 (0)20 8845 5073

e-mail paul@stingproductions.co.uk

LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2020

This cartoon was drawn by John Gill from Tudor Squares in 2014 when Granville Spencer stopped calling for their Mainstream Group and the U3A afternoon session.

Wendy Spencer



LET'S SQUARE DANCE ~ September 2020

Again, not knowing how the Covid 19 situation will change in the coming months, I am including all the planned dances. Those for which we have received definite cancellations have been 'greyed out'

OPEN DANCES ~ Sept 2020

PL = Pot Luck RA=Raffle TO= Ticket only

Fri 4 th to Sun 6 th	HOGSMILL SDC Bournemouth Bonanza Granville Spencer & Ian Turvill MS, P, (A1) Tel. 02035 567449 / 07742 881439	Dorset BH1 3AB
Fri 11 th to Sun 13 th	THE DIAMOND 17 th Challenge Dance Vic Cedar C2 etc Contact Mona +45 25 60 16 58 or lars@sqdancer.dk	Denmark
Sat 12 th	TILEHURST SDC 31 st Birthday & Charity Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding MS, P Tel. Paddy Davis 0118 9471360	PL R RG10 9TT
Sat 19 th	WORTHING SQUARES Birthday Dance Rob Branson MS, P Tel. 07577 220161 (Mike)	PL R W Sussex BN11 4PL.
Sat 19 th Aft / Eve	BUTTONS & BOWS Autumn Dance Emma Horsfield MS (p)P Tel 01508 495320 (Jan)	Suffolk IP28 6BD
Fri 25 th to Mon 28 th	PILGRIM PROMENADES SDC 36 th Coast Weekend Callers TBA P, A!, A2 Tel. 01752 668078 & 07752 569609 (Bernard)	Devon EX39 3QB
Sat 26 th Aft / Eve	A.S.A.Z 5 th Birthday Dance Kevin Lovell Aft A1/2, Eve MS, P Tel. 077 96 695575 (Annika)	Beds, LU6 3RJ

OPEN DANCES ~ October 2020

PL = Pot Luck RA=Raffle TO= Ticket only

1 st Thurs 1 st	ALLEMANDERS SDC Paul Bristow MS, P Tel. 07904 008927 (Jane)	Cheshire WA1 3NJ
Fri 2 nd to Sun 4 th	NORTH WEST AND LAKES WEEKEND Paul Bristow, Di Green, Terry McCann MS,P, A1-2 Tel 01524 811444 (Brian)	Lancs LA2 6NB

OPEN DANCES ~ October 2020 (contd)**PL = Pot Luck RA=Raffle TO= Ticket only**

Sun 4 th	SCARLET RIBBONS RDC Autumn dance & Graduation Sandra Higson Ph II - IV Tel. 01865 424745 (Judy & Michael)	PL RA Oxon OX1 5PY
Sat 10 th	LAZY RIVER Autumn Dance Eddie James MS, P Tel 01273 832300 (Peter)	RA, PL W Sussex BN44 3XZ
Sat 10 th	AXE VALE SDC Autumn Dance Rob Branson MS, P Tel 01395578306 (Ron)	RA PL Devon EX10 9XH
Sat 10 th	VIKING SQUARES Autumn Dance Philip Mee & Matt Baldry MS, P, R Tel 01400 281 497 (Judy)	PL RA Notts NG13 0BG
Fri 16 th to Sun 18 th	Twirlin 2 Steppers Jerry Story, Neil Whiston, Matt Baldry P, (A) R Tel 0195425064 (Irene)	HP1 2PH
Fri 23 rd to Sun 25 th	SCARLET RIBBONS RDC Weekend of Dance Nick & Steve Ph II - IV Tel 01865 424745 (Judi & Michael)	RA Oxon OX25 1PL
Sat 24 th	ACTIV* ^S A Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding A1 - A2 Tel 01582 735118 (Trudy)	Herts AL5 5AH,
Sat 24 th	WHITE ROSE SQUARES Falling Leaves Dance Granville Spencer MS, pP Tel 01943 465006 (Ann) or 01937 580603 (Tom)	PL RA Yorks HG2 7SG
Sat 24 th	NEW FOREST SDC + CAROUSEL WHIRLERS Autumn Dance Reg caller + Heather B, MS, pP, R Tel 01202 529249 (Reg) or 01425 610600 (Heather)	PL RA BH23 8DR
Sat 24 th	STEEPLE STEPPERS 35 th Birthday Dance MS, P Tel 01159 314301 (Hilary)	Notts NG14 7DB
Fri 30 th to Mon 2 nd	THE SOUTHPORT WEEKEND Brian Summerfield, Paul Preston, Amy Richardson Tel 07952 591868 (Brian)	PR8 1JS
Sat 31 st	TUDOR SQUARES Annual Plus Dance Di Green P Email Info@tudorsquares.org.uk (Jenny)	PL RA HP2 4EW

OPEN DANCES ~ November 2020**PL = Pot Luck RA=Raffle TO= Ticket only**

Mon 2nd to Thurs 5th	PIECES OF EIGHT Autumn Break Wendy Shipton Rob Branson MS, P Tel. 07973270 310 (Chris)	RA Somerset BA16 0EF
Sat 14 th	WAGGONNERS 46 th Birthday Dance Simon & Trudy Fielding MS Tel. 01992 441083 (David)	PL RA Herts SG14 2LX
Sat 14 th (Aft)	THORNBURY SQUARES Birthday Dance Rob Branson A1/A2 Tel. 01454 778795 (Sue)	Bristol BS35 1JW
Sat 14 th (Eve)	THORNBURY SQUARES Birthday Dance Rob Branson MS, P Tel. 01454 778795 (Sue)	RA PL Bristol BS35 1HT
Sat 21 st	CUFFLEY SDC Annual Dance Granville Spencer MS, P Tel. 01582 668365/ 07921 665349 (Debbie)	TO RA EN6 4NW
Sat 21 st To Dec 5 th	SUNSHINE DANCE Gran Canaria Bronc Wise, Paul Bristow P, A1, A2, C1 Contact sunshine-dance@lemamusik.se (Leif)	Gran Canaria

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DEADLINES FOR COPY

Obituaries - 25th of the month preceding the publication month. (as early as possible would be appreciated) with an accompanying photo if possible. Forward details direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

Free listing of open Dances – Club contacts are expected to check the events calendar on the BAASDC website (www.uksquaredancing.com) to avoid clashes and then submit details using the website's EVENT SUBMISSION FORM found under 'help' and then 'Forms' at least **TWO weeks** before the publication month.

Short letters relevant to this edition - 25th of the month preceding the publication month, direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

All other items including advertisements - 20th of the month preceding the publication month. Forward details direct to the editor (LSDmag@talktalk.net).

All items submitted will be reviewed and assessed for suitability for inclusion but their *publication cannot be guaranteed* . Authors should be aware that the editor may modify text and layout according to relevance and the space available.

ACCEPTABLE FORMATS

For text submissions - Hand written, typed or e-mail, (ODT, Rich Text or Word). Note that this publication uses Verdana 9pt font as a default.

For graphics submissions - gif, jpeg, jpg, png, tif, ppp and bmp.

Photographs should be to the highest possible resolution.

Please avoid mixing text and graphics

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