

Blue Diamonds SDC - Saturday Night Dance at Hilderstone on 21st October

Alan Trengove has been a regular caller at Blue Diamonds for many years... I've known him since I joined the club, with my wife Alison, in 2010.

In the first few years, Alan would hire Hilderstone village hall on two or three Sunday afternoons per year, to hold a tea dance. These were mainly attended by members of Blue Diamonds and Village Squares SDC (run by Graham Newbrook), who meet on Monday nights in the same hall. Sometimes, dancers from clubs as far afield as Wolverhampton would join us, so it was good to be able to meet with dancers from different clubs and practice our new found skills in a friendly environment.

A number of our club members regularly attend weekend dances organised by other clubs, but as we're still at work and lead busy lives, we never seem to have the time or inclination to go to any ourselves... But when Alan announced that he was going to organise a Saturday night dance on behalf of Blue Diamonds, obviously we had to go. To quote Alan: 'Oh boy, when did this last happen in Staffordshire?'

So preparations were made and publicity was organised, but no one really knew what to expect... We arrived with our friends from Lincoln (Diana and Bill, who have recently joined Bishops Eight SDC) just before the start time, to find the car park fairly full and a good number of dancers already assembled in the hall, eagerly awaiting the first tip.

Alan called a mixture of mainstream and plus, in his usual inimitable style and after the first dance, I knew that everyone would have an enjoyable evening... The 3 hours just flew by and it really was a good evening (the raffle alone raised £40 for club funds). So on behalf of the club, I'd really like to say a big thank-you to Alan (and Tess of course) and all the dancers from the various clubs that supported us.

To quote one lady I spoke to at the end of the evening, when asked "Have you enjoyed it tonight?", she replied "Yes I have" and smiled, "it's just like the old days, when we used to go to dances like this on most Saturdays".

Alan has kindly offered to organise some more dances next year, starting with a tea dance, so look out for more Blue Diamonds dances in the listings at the back of this magazine and on the website. Of course, if you happen to be in the area, you're also welcome to join us on a club night (Thursday evenings 8:00 at the tennis club in Stone).

Nigel Holmes (Secretary)

<http://bluediamonds.holmelee.co.uk>