

Paul

Dance Caller and Teacher

Have a look then get in touch

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Local call rate from most land lines



Barn Dance
Square Dance
(Easy level to Plus)
Ceilidh
Twmpath
Contra
Hoe Down
40's Night



THE PARTY EVERYONE CAN JOIN IN AND EVERYONE CAN ENJOY!

So you are thinking of having a barn dance! Have you organised one before?

If you haven't then the following may be of use to you.

A barn dance is one of the only ways you can get everyone involved from the start. NO experience is needed to take part. Anyone from four to ninety four can join in. The only skill needed is being able to walk. All that is required is to be able to join hands in a line or a circle, link arms with another dancer, or join hands to make an arch. The rest is as easy as falling off a log.

You dance in couples and depending on the type of dance you can dance in groups from two couples, four couples, and upwards to include the whole floor. You could be dancing in lines, in columns, in squares or in circles. It depends on which dance the caller calls.

The caller will walk everyone through the dance first so all the dancers know what the moves are. The caller will call out all the moves as you dance until the dancers can dance the dance on their own. A dance can last between 10 and 15 minutes including the walk through.

There is usually a short break between dances to allow dancers to socialise, get their breath back and have a drink. An evening's dancing can be anything from two to four hours.

For me the object of a barn dance is to get everyone on the dance floor and join in and have FUN



A '**Barn Dance**' is usually an evening comprising of different types of dance. Many of the dances have been around for many, many years. They have been passed from generation to generation since before things were written down. You will enjoy a mixture of circle dances with everyone dancing in one big circle. Then there is round dances and longways sets. You could find yourself dancing in a square of four couples. The dances could come from England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales or anywhere else. They all combine to give the dancers a wonderful social experience. This is what is generally known as a '**Barn Dance**'. In some celtic areas it is called a '**Ceilidh**' (Scottish) or **Ceili** (Irish), (both pronounced Kay-Ley). In Wales it is often called a **Twmpath** while Americans tend to have a **Hoe Down**.

A '**Traditional Scottish Ceilidh**' would comprise of only traditional Scottish dances to Scottish tunes

A '**Traditional Irish Ceili**' would be to Irish music and traditional dances.

An '**English Folk Dance**' would use English music and dances.

A '**Square Dance**' today is based on the dances which came from America in the 40s and 50s and is now known as Modern American Square Dance. Square dancing in this form grew from a mixture of many of the traditional European Folk Dances. It evolved to become the National Folk Dance of America.

A '**Contra Dance**' again has come from America and is a mixture of Modern American Square Dancing and traditional European dances

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OK, so you want me to call for you - what should you expect?

Once we have agreed the date and you have paid your deposit I will send you a contract to confirm the details of when and what time, where the hall is and as a receipt for your payment. The balance being paid on the night.

I will arrive well before the dance is due to start so I have time to set up and test my equipment and make sure the whole hall is covered correctly and clearly. If you have music on a CD or ipod you want to use during the evening that can also be checked.



I will conduct the evening to suit your plans, making any announcements you require, stopping for a meal break etc.

I use recorded music. If you have a band I am happy to work with them.

My equipment is P.A.T. Tested to ensure it is safe and to comply with regulations and am insured should the worst happen and a dancer have an accident. I have a PPL licence so I am able to play any music during the evening.

It is your dance and I will do my best to ensure you enjoy it.

I have been calling and teaching dance for over 22 years now. I run a Square Dance club a few miles from where I live meeting most weeks. I have made programmes for both the BBC and ITV as well as for BBC Radio.

DANCING SHOULD ALWAYS BE FUN!

If you have a barn dance with a mixture of types of dance the music will reflect the dances. Mostly a selection of Jigs and Reels from around Britain. I often throw in one or two modern pieces of music as it always surprises people that old traditional dances can work with new music.

An Irish Ceili would, of course, be to Irish music. It has its own style and is often faster than other folk music.

When it comes to modern square dancing the music range is much wider. Square dancing reached its peak in the United Kingdom in the 1950's and both the dancers and callers have been asking for different music. They did not want to remain stereo typed to one sort of music. There is now a lot of popular music that has been in the charts over the years which has been adapted to be used for square dancing.

If you want something different then try a 40's Night then you can enjoy an evening of the music that was popular during the 1940 period. Make a real night of it and come in costume. The 'Big Band' sound and other songs that, I am sure, many of you will recognise now. Take the opportunity to show off your Jitter Bug and Swing.

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