

Well, after planning this party for over a year, the date had finally come. My husband, Alan Haywood was turning 60! I really can't believe it, and those who know him can't believe it either! Not only does he not look his age but the way he dances all night to everything played that he knows, he's far fitter than I will ever be!

His birthday was on 9th January and the party took place on 10th January.

After wondering exactly how many people were going to turn up, we needn't have worried! Over 100 people turned up for the party. The number included 8 people flying over from Germany, 2 from Munich and 6 from Düsseldorf - two locations we had been to and taught at workshops during 2006 and 2007. It was so lovely that we've managed to keep in touch with them and that they took the time to fly over to us just for an evening social!

Also amongst the guests were Margaret and Tony Swift who had travelled down from the North to be with us, choreographers Kim Ray, Kumari Tugnait, Jo Kinser, Mark Furnell and Michael Lynn – I hope I haven't missed any choreographers here! And then everyone else were friends from around our local area, Luton, Milton Keynes, Bedford etc. It was just so lovely they all came.

Normally we do our own discos but for Alan's party we thought it would be nice for him just to be able to enjoy the party, so we enlisted DJ Handy Andy – his wife Barbie worked like a Trojan to help us put up all the decorations and at the end helped to clear up so a big thank you to both of them for the work they did.

Old dances came out that people hadn't seen for years. Alan's special requests were Cowboy Up and The Beast; both are still show dances, in my opinion and are great to watch. Cowboy Up for me is one that I'm not particularly keen to learn because I love watching it and I still consider it to be a 'man's dance', so apologies to all you ladies who know it and dance it! The way it travels up and down the floor and looks amazing!

In the break, by request, Alan taught Aces Shuffle – the dance he's recently co-choreographed with Pat Stott. It seemed to go down well, even with the As and Bs the dance is really easy! For those of you who are Jive

Aces fans and who danced Jive Aces, you will like Aces Shuffle I'm sure – give it a go!

The buffet was provided by everyone there, everyone brought a plate and there was a complete mixture of food, savoury and sweet and more than enough for everyone, so thanks to everyone who brought food along – it was great! And whoever thought of this idea of a buffet years ago – well done, it's a great idea!

DJ Handy Andy was pushed to the limit with all the requests – some of which were years old – well done to him for managing to have the music and please everyone there. We finished around midnight but Andy still said he could have done another complete social with the amount of requests he had left to play! Always the way, not enough hours. So, for those of you there, if you didn't get all your requests played, you now know why! Well done Andy for getting as many played as possible!

A big thanks also to Michael Lynn (AKA Bimbo Boots) who did the video for us. It was lovely to see so many on the floor for Michael's dance Alesha's Boy – quite a hit in our area!

And of course Alan would like to thank everyone not only for turning up but for the cards and presents! That's not the reason you do these parties – so they were unexpected.

Alan said he was going to save all the balloons and decorations for Kim's 60th – which produced a laugh from all but Kim! Bless her! But that's just how the party was – a laugh all night.

Thanks to all the compliments we've both received about how much people enjoyed the party – makes it all worthwhile.

As Handy Andy said, here's to the next 60! Yeah right!

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