



1) **Where do you live?**

We live in a small town called Wem In the County of Shropshire, a very rural place in the heart of England.

2) **When did you start dancing and how did that happen?**

STEVE - I started dancing in Sept 1997 when I went on holiday with my parents to North Wales and seen it happening in the holiday park's social club. Eventually a lady got me up on the floor to have a go and when returning home I found my local classes and went along twice a week to not 1 but 2 local classes!

CLAIRE - I started dancing in 1994 because my Grandad needed some exercise and Grandma found a local class and we all went along as a family - Apart from Grandad who never did end up coming!!

3) **What is the first dance you ever learnt?**

STEVE - "Hillbilly Rock, Hillbilly Roll" (Rob Fowler) - this is the dance I learnt at the holiday park!

CLAIRE - "The Birchwood Stroll" (John & Jeanette Sandham) - this is the dance we learnt on the first night we went as a family.

4) **Where is the most unusual place you have ever line danced?**

STEVE - I've danced in many unusual places lol, some not really organized and so I just have when I've heard the music! But we have done a few demonstrations at our local Tesco Supermarket, and have collected money for charity there while we've been doing so!

CLAIRE - I danced "Chill Factor" at the 2002 Commonwealth Games Closing Ceremony - held at Etihad Stadium, Manchester.

5) **Does anyone else in your family have the line dancing bug? If so, who?**

STEVE - when I started my parents came for a few weeks but quickly gave up again.

CLAIRE - My family all started as I mentioned earlier but these days they have all given up but, our nieces Keira & Sophie both dance and come with us to many events.

6) **What made you decide to choreograph, and what was your first dance?**

STEVE - I began teaching in 1999 and by 2001 it seemed like something which was a progression and I needed to try.... I choreographed a few before I released any to the public but my first proper one which I released was "Lend Me A Dollar", which was danced to a lovely track named "The Call" by Anne Murray.

CLAIRE - I was still a kid at the time and choreographed many dances to modern chart tracks and also did one to the Mortal Kombat theme tune but these were never released as proper dances. As I grew a bit older I continued to choreograph but never released any until I met Steve and we did "Ready For A Miracle" which was choreographed to a Gospel type track by Leann Rimes. Not long after I choreographed "Nothin' About You" on my own and that was danced to a fantastic country track by Trisha Yearwood.

7) **What does line dance mean to you?**

STEVE - Line dancing has got me out of many holes while I've suffered from depression at periods throughout my life. When on the dance floor it's a time to just forget the worries in life and a time to have fun and chat with friends and also make new friends too. It's something which my life has molded around and I teach multiple classes per week as well as DJ at various events so it became my job and my life revolves around it!

CLAIRE - Line Dancing was my life and love revolved around it as well just like Steve but as my health has deteriorated over the past few years I find it so much harder to get to classes and events, and even watching is hard because I always want to join in but sometimes can't. However, I do still dance when I am feeling up to it and it still means a lot to me, and it's also where I've met a lot of my lifelong friends.

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8) Describe yourself in 1 sentence.

STEVE - I am a person who doesn't like to take things too seriously. I love fun but also, I love to just enjoy simple things in life and it means such a lot to me when people take the time to understand that and treat me nicely and with respect even though maybe I'm not the average man of my age group.

CLAIRE - I am a strong lady but I am very stubborn! I don't let anything get in the way of what I want to do. Life is for living!

9) What does everyone need to know about you?

STEVE - Well apart from the things I've spoken about above in regards to the fact that I'm a bit of a sensitive man, I'm a very keen Gardener.....I Love plants! I also love animals, especially Cats and so we have two beautiful Ragdoll Cats called Sugar & Spice and we also have a Dwarf Lop Eared Rabbit called Harry.

CLAIRE - I LOVE Rock Choir, I go 3 - 4 times a week and we perform at lots of events and have even performed at The Linedancer 2017 Crystal Boot Awards.

10) Do you have any advice or tips for anyone wanting to choreograph?

STEVE & CLAIRE - It's becoming much harder these days to get anyone to look at any new dances even when your name is recognized. All I can say is choreograph but really promote it well before putting out another, there's nothing to be gained from choreographing lots of dances one after another. Also, always include a little "hook" (something that is an unusual combination of steps) so that people remember the dance by this, and try to make any turns not going all the same direction, vary it!