

When did you start dancing with Johnsonville Scottish Country Dance Club?

I moved to Johnsonville in mid-1981, and was very pleased to find that the club met 2 minutes walk from where I was living. This was the last year that Glenys Mills taught the club. Marjorie Crawford taught from 1982 onwards.

How did you get into Scottish country dancing?

I had already done some English Country Dancing through the Folk Music club, and Moggie Grayson, who I knew through the Folk Music club, thought I might enjoy the Scottish version. She was right. I danced at Kelburn club for some years before moving to Johnsonville.

What do you most enjoy about SCD?

There is not one particular thing that stands out. Rather, there are multiple aspects. I find it offers about the right level of physical activity, the right amount of mental stimulation, and the chance to meet a lot of friendly people. It was through SCD that I first met Aline, who I have now been married to for thirty years.

Tell us a bit about any Scottish connections you may have.

I understand that one of my ancestors was the daughter of an NCO in the Gordon Highlanders, cut off by her family for the crime of marrying an Irish marine engineer.

What sorts of activities have you been involved with at the club over the years?

I was on the committee for a while, and the Club Secretary for a couple of years. I have managed to attend most of the social functions the club has run. I have danced in a number of demonstrations run by the club.

What club activity stands out for you?

This has changed over the years. At present, I find the club Tartan Nights particularly enjoyable. I also like dancing with beginners, particularly those who do well with just a little help. I used to have a liking for complicated and difficult dances, but not so much these days.

Tell us something about your life outside of Scottish country dancing.

I am now a Gentleman of Leisure, having recently retired from many years of working as a computer programmer. I am interested in astronomy, and am a member of the Wellington Astronomical Society, Variable Stars South, and the Occultations Section of the Royal Astronomical Society of New Zealand. I am also interested in writing, particularly Science Fiction and Fantasy.