

Johnsonville Scottish Country Dance Club on the move

Johnsonville Scottish Country Dance Club starts the new year in Khandallah.

After 65 years based in Johnsonville, Johnsonville Scottish Country Dance Club is moving to Khandallah.

For almost 50 of those 65 years, the club was based at Johnsonville School hall in Morgan Street, but changes to the hall meant the club had to relocate.

Johnsonville Bowling Club provided a temporary home for the 2020 dancing year, but the need for a larger venue sees them moving to Khandallah Town Hall in February.

Finding the right venue to call home is a challenge many clubs face.

These days it's become especially hard for dance groups, as fewer and fewer halls have resilient wood floors that are kind on the feet and knees.

Khandallah Town Hall has a fantastic floor for dancing.

President Kristin Downey says the Khandallah Town Hall has proved ideal.

"The beautiful timber flooring came from the previously-closed Wainuiomata College, and was installed at the Town Hall in 2017, adding to its lovely ambience."

Johnsonville Scottish Country Dance club members are looking forward to the move, and pleased to have the space to welcome new dancers to join them having fun on the dance floor.



New dancers Isabelle Joseph, Maggie Boag and President Kristin look forward to a new year of dancing at Khandallah Town Hall.

Despite the difficulties of 2020, four new dancers joined the club last year, and became part of the dancing community.

Some had previous dance experience, some had none, but they all found the joy of the dance and stayed on through thick and thin.

Isabelle Joseph loved to dance in Malaysia, but hadn't come across Scottish country dancing before she moved to Johnsonville.

She was nervous but 'went

with an open mind to be greeted by smiles and hellos' on her first night. That put her at ease and she 'loved every session' she attended. Since then she says, 'Monday evening is a day/time I block off on my calendar'.

Maggie Boag from Scotland, joined when Covid extended her visit to family in Johnsonville. As a recent widow, she found a whole new community of friends, and experienced 'such a feeling of accomplishment and such a feeling of joy' on

the dance floor. Since taking up dancing, she's also found the many hills of Wellington far less challenging!

Find out more about Isabelle and Maggie's first year of dancing fun at www.johnsonvillescd.org.nz/ and get in touch if you'd like to know more about beginners' classes at Khandallah Town Hall, Monday evenings in February.

Contact Robert 021 163-9649 johnsonvillescdc@gmail.com or Kristin/Rod 478-4948.