

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

I started with the beginners' class of 2013.

***How did you get into Scottish Country Dancing?***

I've always liked dancing and did some country and Irish dancing as a child. My husband Peter saw an advertisement in the local paper one year and suggested we go along to see what it was like.

***What do you most enjoy about SCD?***

The music, the people – everyone is so nice and helpful and friendly, and of course the dancing – it's great exercise for the mind as well as the body.

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

I was born in Scotland and still have relatives there. But a large part of my heritage, from both of my parents, is actually Irish.

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

I started out by just coming along each week and dancing, although I did take part in the demonstration dances at the 2015 Newlands Neighbours' Day and attended one of Rod's excellent classes one long weekend last year.

I was elected to the Committee during 2016 and am still a Committee member. I have also helped with organising the annual Summer Ceilidh by co-ordinating responses and food offerings, and now regularly help Allison in the kitchen during the mid-winter celebration.

More recently I have been briefing dances at Johnsonville as part of learning how to teach – my thanks and sympathy to Rod for his help.

***What club activity stands out for you?***

It's hard to pick any particular thing, but actually I rather like the normal weekly classes. I like learning new dances and we always have a great laugh over something and the atmosphere is very relaxed.

And I actually like attending the beginners classes at the start of the year as it is a chance to work on my steps without worrying too much about the dances.

***Tell us something about your life outside of Scottish Country Dancing.***

I retired from being an electrical engineer a few years ago after almost 42 years in the industry. Retirement hasn't gone quite as I expected – overseas travel is definitely off for a few years yet as far as I am concerned.

Currently I'm quite happy pottering around home and just doing whatever my current fad happens to be – sometimes pretending to play my keyboard (work in progress), or knitting or reading or entertaining the cat. I have a few other potential projects but they haven't reached fad status yet.

I am still a committee member of the Johnsonville Community Association Inc. so attend meetings and help with various projects and submissions as required. I also attend meditation and Feldenkrais classes, so actually I don't know how I ever had time to work.