

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

In 2003 and I am glad that I did then especially as you advance in age, all sorts of mysteries unfold before your eyes

How did you get into Scottish country dancing?

I saw the advertisement in the local rag about dancing and toe tapping music and you bet – I was hooked! This new student not only had two left feet but also two left hands so much so that on my first social evening, Rod had to tie a tartan ribbon on my right wrist to help me remember right from left.

What do you most enjoy about SCD?

Everything – the people, the music and the general atmosphere – reminds me of prize-giving nights at the civic auditorium – the anticipation of who will be there, what we are going to learn or dance that evening and on social evenings – the selection of goodies on offer. Those smiles on fellow dancers' faces speak louder than words when they have mastered something new.

If anything, it is value for money – music, friendships, a holistic workout – mentally – you need to count to get the right number of steps to give you the rhythm, physically – strong limbs, emotionally – acknowledge your dance partner and you are learning not only new formations but also the geography and history of the origins of the wonderful people who drafted those dances and the land from which they came from. You get to appreciate the musicians too. And the plates of scrumptious food that are offered on social evenings – so irresistible!

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

If I did I would be Pinocchio but I know that the Queen is the patron of the RSCDS and I owe her my allegiance. I have one pair of dancing shoes and a tartan scarf – would these count as a connection?

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

Serving numerous cups of tea and the odd coffee to fellow dancers and don't get me wrong, this is one role I thoroughly enjoy as you get to meet a wide range of people and chat with them too. The good thing about kitchen duty is that it is a shared responsibility.

What club activity stands out for you?

Not so much an activity but for the fact that tutors are able to laugh at themselves.

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

I work as an insurance broker during the week and evenings are spent catching up on reading – no, not Agatha Christie or Sherlock Holmes novels but articles of interest, whether it is work related or just life in general. In recent years, I have taken up Code Crackers and the easy version of sudoku – be it words or numbers although I find the latter very challenging when I reach the end of the booklet. I don't possess green thumbs but am good at weeding, mowing the lawns and on Sundays, meet up with other attendees at All Saints church in Hataitai.