

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

I started with the beginners class in 2014.

How did you get into Scottish country dancing?

My doctor had recommended some regular exercise to combat aches and pains from inactivity and a sedentary job, but I had no desire for repetitive gym routines nor aimless walking or jogging. I saw the advertisements for Johnsonville's SCD beginner classes at the beginning of 2014 and attended the first class with trepidation. I had never exercised previously, much less danced, so was unsure whether I could cope. I recall asking whether I could just pay the first night's fee and then put up the additional \$8 once I had completed the class. After being put through the paces by Rod, I realised that not only could I do it, but I really enjoyed it. I paid up and have never looked back.

What do you most enjoy about SCD?

I have somewhat accepted that being an older dancer, I am never going to have 'beautiful feet' but I enjoy the challenge of getting through a complicated dance by exercising my memory and putting all the formations together. I also enjoy the newer dancers' enthusiasm for the sport, which is what I experienced very early on as well. The regular exercise is a big bonus.

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

None really. My forebears were from China in the distant past, but had spent many generations in Singapore, becoming Straits-born Chinese (largely English speaking, with a patois that mixes Chinese and Malay, and possessing unique customs and cuisine different from pure Chinese). My husband Greg has English and Irish ancestors, but we haven't found any Scottish ones.

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

I dance nearly every Monday night with Johnsonville, and have attended many of the special events like ceilidhs and dances. I also dance at Ngaio club on Thursday nights. You may have heard of us 'double agents' attending two or more club nights. It is a great way to get exposure to more teaching, different dances and a host of friendly dancers. This year I put my hand up to join the supper team at Johnsonville.

What club activity stands out for you?

I have attended so many ceilidhs and dances now that they blur into each other. The mid-winter ceilidhs have been particularly enjoyable with their individual themes; they are also an opportunity to spend more time getting to know other club members and for other family members to join in.

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

I am an accountant working part-time at the New Zealand School of Dance in Newtown. On the volunteer front, I serve as treasurer of my church in Johnsonville, participate as a consumer representative in some cancer research organisations and help with a bereaved parents' support group. I also manage a small portfolio of rental properties and I'm an avid reader, mainly of thrillers and crime fiction.