

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

This year, 2021.

How did you get into Scottish country dancing?

I saw a flyer in Cafe Thyme about the beginner classes. As I had already missed a couple of sessions I contacted Kristin to see if I was too late (and too old). Most of my retirement activities involve a lot of sitting so I was looking to do something more active.

What do you most enjoy about SCD?

It is a great workout mentally - learning the steps, formations and terminology. Physically it is challenging - as my knees and feet remind me each week. But especially it is the people who make it so enjoyable. Other dancers are so welcoming and keen to share their enthusiasm with new people. Everyone is so patient and encouraging.

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

No Scottish ancestors that I know of. My mother was from Norfolk in NE England and my father's grandparents from Northern Ireland.

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

I joined the supper team this year. I may be a beginner in the dancing arena but I'm not bad at pouring cups of tea.

What club activity stands out for you?

I really love the club nights with the teaching and practising which is a reflection of the stage I'm at. I like learning about the history of the dances and the music. Some evenings I leave on a high when I have managed most dances well, and other nights I feel bad about how I have messed up. In order to try and improve I've started to go with other Johnsonville SCDC members to the Ngaio club nights. Above all it is fun.

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

I have been retired for a while and go to different groups for various activities - mahjong, book groups, garden club, Probus.

I have one daughter, four stepchildren, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren most of whom live in Wellington. I realise how lucky I am. At home I enjoy gardening, crosswords, jigsaws and reading.