

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

I started dancing with the Johnsonville SCD Club at the beginning of February 2021 when Beginners classes commenced. I danced as a teenager and into my early 20's at the Marlborough SCD Club in Blenheim during the 1970s.

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

My Mum sent my myself, sister and brother to Saturday morning Children's Classes in our local community hall when I was about 13 years old. She said we stomped along rather than walking and thought it would help us to be lighter on our feet. She was right!



Anne (at the right) says, "I was presenting a thank you gift to our Children's Classes instructor (Janet Birch) at the Marlborough club in 1970. In the background is Murray Adrian who was a long-standing member of the committee."

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

My toes start tapping the moment I hear a Scottish tune. I love the exercise too. It is hard work dancing again after 40 years break from it although I was doing other exercise in those years, but have got fitter and my leg muscles stronger as the season has continued.

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

I don't have any Scottish ancestors but am doing some genealogy research on the maternal grandfather of my father-in-law who was a McKenzie. It is turning out to be a bit of a mission and I am now dealing with DNA tests to see if we can trace from where the family originated.

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

With the Marlborough SCD I went on numbers of trips to Weekend Schools and events the other clubs in the Marlborough, Nelson, West Coast organised during the 1970s. My boyfriend of the time and all his family also danced and I have many happy memories of trips to a huge weekend school at Lake Rotoiti and regional dances in Nelson and Picton. I also went to the 1978 Highland Games at Hastings with a set of dancers which was a fabulous event.

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

I really enjoy club nights. I haven't as yet had a chance to attend any of the Johnsonville SCD weekend events but once I have retired I will have more time to do that.

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

My hubby and I live in Khandallah and work from home so Covid restrictions haven't affected our day to day lives that much but I really miss attending our club nights. I'm looking forward to retiring at the end of this year which will give me more free time to do the things I love – gardening, walking in the outdoors, genealogy and of course Scottish Country Dancing.