

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

At the beginning of 2019.

How did you get into Scottish Country Dancing?

I felt I needed some form of exercise other than walking. I saw Beginners classes advertised in the local Independent Herald. I thought it was worth a try and have carried on!!!

What do you most enjoy about SCD?

The friendly people is a standout from my first evening and continues. I also appreciate the patience of the experienced dancers encouraging newer dancers. I did not realise either at first that Scottish Country Dancing is not only a physical activity but a mental one. I am no longer so exhausted after dancing and have noticed my stamina for walking uphill has improved. I feel too that my feet are stronger and more flexible with keeping my heel off the floor most of the time.

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

I met my husband on a trip to Hogmanay in Edinburgh 40 years ago! Sadly that is the only time I have been to Scotland as a planned trip last year could not happen.

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

I have recently joined the supper team.

What club activity stands out for you?

The social occasions held throughout the year.

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

My husband Gavin enticed me to New Zealand about a year after meeting in Edinburgh. We married here in Wellington and have 3 children and 2 grandchildren. One daughter lives in Napier with our 2 grandchildren. We see them as often as we can. Recently this has included childminding in the school holidays. Our son is living in Austria and our other daughter is in Thailand. It's good to know that I can go to Scottish Country Dancing in these places!!!

I belong to a walking group that meets every Tuesday morning with a compulsory coffee afterwards. The dog gets walked on her own the rest of the week. Otherwise I keep busy with gardening and quilting.