

Rose Cross



I shall start my update with quoting from my final sentence written in 2015, which was

“My biggest wish now is that I might be able to teach someone else to start another Circle Dance group, so that the small seed I planted of wanting to share Circle Dancing will grow even bigger and spread even further.”

Well, I am delighted to say my biggest wish came true. Very soon after writing that last sentence in 2015, I started to work with

Lynne Barlow helping her along the path to becoming a teacher. Together we started a new group in Kinross, and after a year of co-teaching, I was delighted to be able to hand over the reins completely to Lynne. I have been rewarded so many times since, to see how she has fully blossomed and embraced her new role. My tiny seed has indeed grown and not only spread further but has brought much joy, laughter and happiness to even more people than I could ever have imagined.

Dancing in Cupar

My lovely group of loyal dancers in Cupar continue to support me wonderfully well, and bring me so much pleasure in allowing me to share my passion for dancing with them. They are very caring of me and tolerate my ever increasing amount of ‘senior moments’ and I hope, with their support, we shall have a few more dancing years together.

If you’re interested in figures, our average weekly attendance is 25.5 (not sure who the half person is), with our highest attendance being 38. We’ve had 13 new dancers join our group in the past year.

One of our highlights has been The Children in Need dance morning, when we raised a fantastic £450. The other highlight was our Summer Dance Party, when I shared teaching with Lynne. We had 40 dancers in our circle and had a most wonderful time.

Dancing in St Andrews

My new St Andrews’ group started in May 2017. This followed on from my teaching sessions at Haydays, (a social club in St Andrews), when I stood in for a couple of terms for their dance teacher who was ill. Again, it was a great pleasure to introduce Circle Dancing to a completely new group of people and after my two sessions

finished at Haydays, I was asked by the members if I would start a new Circle Dance group in St Andrews.

Our delightful new group has now been dancing together in St Andrews for 6 months and our numbers have been growing steadily each week. We now have 36 members on the register and our average weekly attendance is 15, with a peak of 22 in September.

And finally

To conclude my update, circle dancing continues to be my passion, and brings me a great deal of joy to see so many happy smiling faces across my circles, and to hear people tell me how it uplifts and enriches their lives as well. Long may it continue!!

11 November 2017

I discovered Circle Dance rather late in life, in 2001, when I was 56. It was just after my Mum died, following a short illness which we journeyed together. I was looking for something to fill a void in my life. I saw a poster whilst out for a walk one afternoon in a nearby village where I lived in Oxfordshire. It said, "Come and try Circle Dancing. No partner or experience needed". So that same evening, I took myself along to the Youth Hall in Benson where Lilly Sell was teaching a Circle Dance class. As so many people have said before me, "from that moment, I knew I had discovered something I loved and it would become a big part of my life". I also knew that it was something I wanted to share with others although at the time, I hadn't a clue how I would set about doing this.

After attending Lilly's classes for a couple of years, I picked up Judy King's leaflet one evening, which offered a Circle Dance Training Course. I thought, "this is it, wonderful" and even more wonderful was the fact that it was to be held just a 20min drive from Chalgrove, the village where I lived. Suddenly, I'd found the way forward on how to share this Circle Dancing – I would become a teacher. Well, the year-long course ticked all the boxes for me and I emerged, somewhat hesitantly, into the world of teaching Circle Dancing, instead of just doing it.

I started a group in Watlington, a small town near where I lived. Gradually over a 5 year period the group grew and I was pleased and I think the group were pleased too. Then one day, my daughter announced that she and her husband and our two grand-daughters were moving to Scotland. Well, this was quite a blow for us and as we only have the one daughter, we considered our options: spend the rest of our retirement travelling 480 miles between Oxford and Scotland to see our family, or move ourselves to Scotland. Well, having lived for 46 years in the same Oxfordshire village, this was a massive upheaval for us, but we survived. Having arrived and

settled in Cupar, Fife and finding that my nearest Circle Dance group was an hour's journey away, I decided to start all over again, and form a new group in the town.

So, this is my journey and this is where I currently am in 2015. I have a wonderful group now of about 43 dancers (they don't all come every week) but we average a healthy 20-25 each week. We dance, we sing (with the music sometimes), we laugh, we chat, most of all we enjoy each other's company. I receive some lovely comments and thanks from my dancers. My biggest wish now is that I might be able to teach someone else to start another Circle Dance group, so that the small seed I planted of wanting to share Circle Dancing will grow even bigger and spread even further.

February 2015