

## Rose Cross

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.

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