

## Stonehaven Group Profile April 2019

Stonehaven Circle Dance started on 16<sup>th</sup> Jan this year. Nine dancers generously came to support us from Cupar, the group where I regularly dance. This meant that we started with a lovely big circle of 30 dancers. During our first term we've averaged 19 local dancers every week. We meet for an hour and a half from 10 to 11.30 on Wednesday mornings with a tea/coffee break at about 10.45. We dance a variety of dances and are really still finding our feet as to what works best. It's a bit of fun trying on different dances to see which ones fit and which ones we need to grow into!

The idea of starting a Circle Dance group became more than just a passing fancy when I signed up for a training course run by Rose Cross, my teacher in Cupar. Six of us met up monthly, for a day of training. We learned, we laughed, we almost cried and we taught dances to a very understanding group of volunteers. Knowing that I had the practical support of Rose and the other new teachers was a huge impetus in setting up my own group.

When it came to publicity I took on board Rose's helpful advice and with the help of my good friend Kirsteen we put up posters all round Stonehaven, delivered flyers, put a notice in the community section of the local newspaper and wherever possible we talked to people about it. I did a taster session at one of the local church's guild and also took the opportunity to put a display in the local library window.

However this still left the question of promoting the group on the internet and social media. Luckily I was taken under the wing of Central Scotland Circle Dance (CSCD). This association brings together 9 dance groups and their teachers to promote circle dancing and organise dance events. Coming under the CSCD umbrella meant that my posters and publicity included a reference to the CSCD website and Facebook page. This was a real benefit as anyone interested can go and see for themselves what Circle Dancing looks like and find out about some of the other groups in Scotland. Having the backing of the other CSCD teachers was a real boost too.

Stonehaven Circle dance is still very much in its early days and I'm so pleased that it's got off to a good start. I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Rose and all those dancers and teachers who have supported me along the way so far. Thank you.

Pamela Affleck

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