

**Katie Jack**

**Edinburgh Marchmont/Grange, and Anniesland groups**

**February 2022**



I have always loved dance!

I owe everything to my mum for taking me along to these early dance classes and for always seeking out visiting dance companies to go and watch together. As a result, I still have in my possession, a large collection of programmes begun in childhood providing me with a personal library of some really memorable and exciting performances!

This passion - for both participating and spectating – has been life-long.

My path to circle dance? I am a relative newcomer. I ‘dabbled’ in the 1990’s when the opportunity arose and NHS shifts permitted, but my then focus was on Medau Movement for which I received instruction from

some wonderfully talented teachers over many years. In 2013 however, I crossed paths with Rose Cross at a Medau class in St Andrews and circle dance opportunities I was unaware of were enthusiastically made known to me. Thank you, Rose! I therefore turned up at Mandy de Winter’s Midsummer Weekend (a whole weekend of dance!) that same year with some apprehension. I need not have worried. I was absolutely blown away from the start! I was immediately struck by the many variations in rhythm and tempo and continue to be fascinated by the background, inspiration and music behind each and every dance. Being a frustrated lapsed trumpet player, I have a particular passion for brass music...

I was delighted therefore, to be given the opportunity to begin teaching Circle Dance, assisted again, by some wonderful and supportive teachers, other ‘trainees’ and a very patient group of volunteers on whom we could try out our newly acquired skills! Eternal thanks in this respect to Jenny Oswald, Judy King, and Mandy de Winter for delivering their invaluable and uplifting training sessions and for so generously sharing their knowledge and passion. Oh – and to Rose again, who let me loose on her St Andrews class for some additional teaching practice!

Meeting up with Kate Daly gave us a great opportunity to re-introduce Circle Dance to Edinburgh, where we have co-taught a class since 2017. 2019 brought a new opportunity for me to take over the reins of a lovely, well-established class in Glasgow Anniesland. Both groups are a delight to dance with!

Classes are friendly and informal (no experience necessary) and I invite you to come along and give them a try!

I am fortunate in Edinburgh to be near a national dance centre where again, I can ‘dabble’ in other dance forms, but the Circle continues to beckon me and stir the senses.