**Atsuko Clement**

The first Scottish country dance workshop **Atsuko** attended was in Japan in 1975, and she attended the Society’s Summer School in 1979, when she became totally hooked by it.  She came to Edinburgh in 1981 to learn more about the background and history of Scottish county dancing, and is still here today!

Atsuko gained her full certificate in 1983, and danced in the Branch Festival show for many years, teaching Branch classes, along with classes in many countries and at the RSCDS Summer Schools. Atsuko also teaches Ladies Step dance classes and workshops in many countries, including St Andrews, TAC and NZ summer schools.  She is now an RSCDS examiner.

She is eager to pass on her knowledge and experience, as she was lucky enough to gain from so many wonderful legendary teachers.

**Elizabeth Harry**

**Elizabeth** was born and brought up in Edinburgh and started dancing at a very early age. She has danced in our Demonstration team for many years having gotten the bug as a child aged 9 when she performed in her first “Edinburgh Fancy”! Since then, she has danced all over Europe along with a dance tour of Japan.

Elizabeth has regularly taught classes at all levels including our Demonstration team, achieving success at Newcastle Festival with teams that she trained. She enjoys delivering the Jigs and Reels pack to Primary school teachers who have no previous dance experience and passing on her skills to the next generation in our children’s group. She has tutored successful Candidate courses and is delighted that some of her candidates are now teaching Branch classes.

Aside from teaching, Elizabeth is actively involved in Edinburgh Branch and is looking forward to getting back to dancing in the coming year.

**Rachel Shankland**

**Rachel** began dancing when she was at school and immediately fell in love with it. Her joy for Scottish country dancing grew even more when she moved to Edinburgh for her studies in 2007.

Since then, she has been part of our Demonstration team and in 2010 and 2012 completed her RSCDS Teaching Certificate with the Branch.

Subsequently Rachel has taught a wide variety of classes within Edinburgh, further afield at Day Schools throughout Europe and also at the RSCDS Summer School.

She is delighted to be teaching again for us and is looking forward to seeing lots of happy dancers returning to the dance floor!

**Yoshi Shibasaki**

**Yoshi** started dancing when he was in Japan and fell in love with Scottish dance and its music. When he was offered a job from Research Institutes in Kent and in Edinburgh, he did not think twice to accept the one in Edinburgh. He joined New Scotland at the University immediately after his arrival, and took part in numerous Scottish dance competitions in the UK and became part of many winning teams. Such is his love of dancing for three consecutive years between 1996 and 1998 he demonstrated more than any other dancer in New Scotland!

Yoshi joined our demonstration team in 1997 and danced in the Fringe festival shows, Strictly Scottish and Dancing Forth for many years, and has performed in Europe for the Branch. He started to help teaching our beginners classes in 2004 and completed his RSCDS Teaching Certificate with the Branch in 2018. Since then he has been teaching our Beginners and Mixed Ability classes.

When he is not dancing Yoshi enjoys playing the bagpipes.

**Maggie McLeish**

**Maggie** started dancing as a child, when you had to learn to be light on your feet so as not to make the record jump!

Having been a member of the Edinburgh demonstration team for many years, she has performed and danced with fellow Scottish Country dancers at events and workshops around Scotland, Europe and Japan, and has taught Children, Beginners and Intermediate classes. She is so appreciative of the opportunities that dancing has brought her, and is keen that others should enjoy the fun, fitness and friendship that it can bring.