

JEAN RITCHIE

Jean Ritchie has always been a very dedicated member of the BATD. She took great pride in bringing a Beginner dancer to a Championship winner. She also was very involved in making sure all aspects of Highland Dance be fair, and still is a true supporter of the SOBHD. Jean was never afraid to speak her mind in a truthful way, which sometimes was unpopular. Nevertheless if it needed said, Jean Ritchie said it!

Many of her dancers have won Championship titles including World Champion, Lorraine Brown.

In 1969, she was one of the First Highland Examiners to conduct an Examining tour of the United States and Canada. Many teachers have wonderful memories of her teaching at Grandfather Mountain at the School of Scottish Arts with Jessie Stewart training young teachers to become judges of the SOBHD. As with all the "Grande Dames" of Highland Dance, Jean Ritchie was always there to help many teachers. She always thought the best way to improve dancing technique was to be willing to share her vast expertise with anyone who wanted help.

Now over 90 years young, she is retired and still living in Renfrew with her son Stewart. Her daughter, Elizabeth, now lives and teaches Highland Dance in Spokane, Washington State, USA.