



Jean Attwood (née Jarratt) was born in Loughborough, England, on 12 August 1934. She attended Emmanuel Primary School, Loughborough Girls High School and Loughborough College of Education.

In the 1960s, Jean was active in Scottish country dancing in Loughborough and around the East Midlands. In 1968 she married Don Attwood (they had met on the dance floor), joined him in Berkshire, and became active in SCD with the Newbury Caledonian Society. They remained in Thatcham, Berkshire, until the late 1980s when Don retired and the couple moved to Loughborough where they lived for the remainder of their lives. Jean passed away on 9 August 2008, while Don lived for another eight years.

Back in Loughborough, Jean taught at the Loughborough Scottish Country Dancing Society, which existed until 2002, when the number of dancers was not enough for it to continue.

Jean probably began devising dances in the 1970s. In the notes accompanying Alexander Book 1 she acknowledges the help she received from her class at the Newbury Caledonian Society in trying out her ideas. The programmes of dances that Jean attended (and maybe organized) indicate that two of her dances: Castle Varrich and The Falls of Rogie were being danced already in 1979.

It was some years later - after her return to Loughborough - that Jean began to publish the Alexander books. Altogether, she published ten Alexander books, comprising 106 dances, while also producing a number of leaflets with an additional 36 dances. The leaflets include some well-known dances such as Butterscotch and Honey and Lady Sophia Lindsay.