

Helensburgh & District RSCDS



UPDATE

<http://www.helensburgh-rscds.org.uk>

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Day of Dance



The Day of Dance that the Branch runs jointly with the Active Schools Coordinator for P7 children attending Helensburgh and Lomond schools was held this year on the 3rd of March. Over 250 children attended either a morning or afternoon session held in the Victoria Halls in Helensburgh. This year the children were well behaved and knew their dances with everyone enjoying themselves judging by the smiles and the laughter.

Helen Rodger and Irene Smith were the MCs to give the instructions and to encourage the youngsters onto the floor but this was almost un-necessary as the children were ready to dance all the time. Members of the Branch came along either for the whole day or for one of the sessions to help as stewards. Many thanks to them for giving up their time. It is always a hard day but worth it to see so many young people enjoying themselves.

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Committee

- ♦ *Chairman* Pam Fennell
- ♦ *Secretary* Irene Smith
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- ♦ *Treasurer* David Reid
- ♦ *Secretary 2* Helen Bain
- ♦ *Archivist* Nan Dearie



Members at the Members' Dance

Message from the Chairman

Although this is the Spring Update I am firstly going to mention the Christmas Tree Festival which I visited for the first time in December.

I was very impressed with this Festival, very imaginative dressing of Christmas Trees by all the various Helensburgh Groups and Organisations involved.

It was worth a visit. If you have not attended before, I would recommend visiting this year. I am sure you all enjoyed the Festive season with your families and friends but also were happy to return to your classes in the New Year.

The Member's Dance in early January was a good dance and fairly well attended. Although the heating was not working and we had to put our coats on to enjoy the buffet, prepared by ourselves, we all felt warmer after eating the delightful food. Nicky McMichan's Band also appreciated coming off the draughty stage to enjoy the refreshments!

All fuelled up, the second half was great and no thought of the cold was mentioned. St Joseph's Hall Keeper apologised about the lack of heating. We understand the repair has been carried out!

Before the Charity Dance in February a few of us attended the Glasgow Branch Dances in Milngavie. They were very well attended. One dance, entitled "Nice n' Easy" was (surprise, surprise) nice and easy to follow. Each dance, as well as being recapped, was walked through by the first couple. Many dancers were new to Scottish country dancing, having just started in a beginners class in Westerton, a few months earlier. It was great seeing a packed hall with so many happy dancers. On the way home, we were talking about how a "Nice and Easy Dance" might be welcomed in Helensburgh. Would it encourage a lot more of you to come to Branch Dances?

For anyone who would like to go to the Glasgow dances, but are unsure how to travel to them, please get in contact with me, there's always room in the car.

It is good to attend other Branch's dances. As well as meeting old friends and making new ones, we can advertise our dances in Helensburgh in the hope they will attend our dances, and our Weekend.



Listening to the call out.



Charity Dance

The Charity Dance in February, supporting the Helensburgh Dementia Resource Centre, was another good night.



Bronwyn O'Riordan & the Branch Committee



Drawing the Raffle

The sum raised was £836.81. Bronwyn O'Riordan, Community Fundraiser, came and gave us a very short but informative overview of how the money would be used in Argyll and Bute, as well as describing the difference between Alzheimers and other forms of Dementia. A few of us went to the Resource Centre and handed over the cheque to Bronwyn. She urged us to use the Centre like a coffee shop. As all those serving coffee are Volunteers donations are welcomed.



Presenting the Cheque

The Branch Day of Dance was a very successful day, enjoyed by the stewards and the 260 children who came from all the primary schools in our district.

Many thanks to all who made it such a successful day, especially to Irene Smith for liaising with the schools and arranging the music, and Helen Rodger for organising the programme and recapping the dances in the morning and Irene Smith in the afternoon, and to Nan for playing the music in the afternoon.

Now, as the spring term is coming to an end, we can look forward to early summer dancing starting in late April to the end of May in the Pillar Hall of the Victoria Halls with Anne Thorn as teacher. Anne always has a theme for this relaxed and friendly session (dancers from all the classes in the District attend). Last year the theme was Flowers and Insects. What will the theme be this year?



I look forward to seeing many of you at either all, or some, of the events of the 39th Branch Weekend.

At this late stage in our 2016/17 session we still do not have a Chairman Elect. I will need to tap on more of your “shoulders”! It is an interesting position. As Chairman I have learned a lot about the workings of the Branch and the committee. I am looking forward to having a Chairman Elect at the meetings in the very near future. The Chairman Elect can look forward to helping the committee with the organisation of our Ruby Anniversary Weekend in 2018. (The bands and the Saturday morning teacher have already been booked.)

One of our new committee members, Morag Irvine, who has designed our new website, with help from Iain McDonald, has already produced some very attractive Fliers and designed the tickets for the 40th Weekend events.

Pam Fennell
Chairman

Christmas Dance



Pines of Pitlochry

Do you remember December of last year? It all seems so far away now, but on Friday, 9th December 2016 we held our Christmas Dance in Cardross Church Hall. Although numbers were a bit down, those who were there thoroughly enjoyed an evening dancing to the wonderful music from Sandy Nixon’s Band. Sandy’s band is a bit of an institution at this function as they have played for us for over twenty years – he says they all thoroughly enjoy coming to the evening because it is always good fun. Personally I think it is because they seem to win so many prizes at the raffle!



Who Can You Spot at the Christmas Dance?

Portincaple Oak, a dance devised by Anne Thorn for Ian Hall, was videoed at the function and can be viewed on our new Branch website. One of the tunes Sandy used for Portincaple Oak was The Kilcreggan Country Dancers, which was written in 1994 by Bill Cook. It was lovely to hear it again. As the beginning of December is such a busy time in the SCD calendar, we are organising our dance on the SATURDAY night, 9th December 2017, so please put that date in you diary now so that we have an even bigger success at the end of this year.

Helen Bain



A Warm Welcome from Roy & Colin

Christmas Tree Festival

The Christmas Tree Festival took place in the United Reformed Church from 13 – 18 December 2016.

This festival was introduced in December 2008 and, for each of the past 10 years, we have sponsored and decorated a tree. Update featured an article last year in which we mentioned the need for some fresh ideas and decorations!

Over the years we have managed to represent SCD in many ways relying upon our selection box of handmade decorations to see us through each Christmas! We have added to our box fairly regularly, but would now appreciate new volunteers to help out with some new ideas – ours are becoming rather tired!

Each year, we feel that it is important to support this event; Indeed, after 10 years it has become a Branch tradition. If you are interested in helping, please contact Isabel Bone or Irene Smith.

Who Can you Spot?



*Jack Gregor.
Front Row L to R: Maire Carrie, Mary McIntosh, Norah
Dunn, Dorothy Capstick, Joan Murray, Moira Thomson,*

*Trail, Helen Bain, Roy Bain
Back Row L to R: Alan Carrie, Di Buchanan, Alma*

North Dunn receiving her scroll at the RSCDS AGM

Westerton Summer Dancing starts on
31st May in Westerton Village Hall from
7.30 – 9.45 and will run fortnightly
(May 30 June 13 27 July 11 25 Aug 08, 22
Sep 5)
Live music - Cost: £3 at door
For Experienced Dancers

Tea Dance

Wednesday 17th May 2017
2p.m.-4.30p.m.

Guide Hall
John Street Helensburgh

In aid of
Dumbarton London Corner Nursery Ghana

Anecdote

If in doubt.....smile and keep dancing

A number of years ago I was dancing with a demonstration team at a function in Belgium and, as usual, the class teacher had 'linked' a number of dances together. This involved changing the set amongst other things from a longwise set to square set a number of times and changing from strathspey into quick time.

All went well for the first half of the dance but then for some reason the 'mental blackout' hit a number of dancers and from then on no one was in the right place, the right side or even with the right partner. We even invented a few new formations including how to avoid two on coming dancers all wanting to turn the same person.

On the chord there was no 'set' only something that wouldn't have looked out of place in Brigadoon.

Afterwards over tea and cake a lady asked one of the dancers how did we manage to remember so many complicated moves.....with a smile and just keep dancing (anywhere was the reply)!

Irene Smith

The Tuesday Summer Dancing Class starts on

18 April in the Pillar Hall Victoria Halls
From 8 – 10pm.
The class will run for 8 weeks until 30th
May.

Teacher:- Anne Thorn
Theme: Flowers, Animals & the Four
Seasons
Not suitable for beginners.

Tea Dance

A successful dance was held in February raising £130 for this year's mini-charity, Revive MS.

The programme and music were prepared by Graeme and Helen Murray and despite a few technical hitches gave us a grand afternoon's dancing.

Thirty-five people attended and the objective of providing a social dance for those who do not come out in the evening was fulfilled, the "tea" part of the dance also being enjoyed!

A different location, the lovely new Parish Church Hall in Colquhoun Street, was used and the facilities, floor and acoustic were all just fine.

David Reid



Cove & Kilreggan Scottish Country Dance Cove Burgh Hall

**Friday, 27th October 2017
2p.m. - 5p.m.**

Afternoon tea

A bus leaves Helensburgh at about 1 o'clock which arrives in nice time and there is one back home at 5.12 pm.

Ferry passengers can be picked up by arrangement.



Dancing Through

When I was one and twenty
I thought I'd take a chance
And go to evening classes
For Scottish Country Dance.

When I was one and thirty
I felt I knew it all –
The complicated dances
Didn't bother me at all.

When I was one and forty
I knew I was the cream,
For I was made a member
Of the demonstration team.

When I was one and fifty
I went on the committee –
A lot less carefree dancing,
A lot more nitty-gritty.

When I was one and sixty
I knew without a doubt
I was dancing rather gently,
And sometimes sat one out.

Now I am one and seventy
And I'm still having fun,
But I wonder how the feet will cope
When I am eighty one.

Pat Bratt



Finance

I know many of you do not find this interesting but please take a moment to read on.

I would like to explain why we are having to reduce classes, employ smaller bands, move functions to cheaper halls, increase membership and class costs.

In each of the last 2 years we have had a deficit of over £1000.

At the start of this year we had £8300. We now have £6475 (leaving out weekend receipts). £2000 of this reduction is accounted for by the donation to HQ in memory of late Honorary President Mrs. Dunn so we are slightly ahead and are now dependent on the result of the Weekend School which in the last 2 years has had a small deficit. Classes. The cost of a class for teacher and hall is generally £60. Add to this the cost of providing music and incidentals, so say £64. The charge will be £4 per class so we need 16 members to cover the cost. Look around and see what other class you can get for £4. Any surplus, and only the Couples class has had one in the last 3 years, goes to other objectives of the Branch, mainly junior dancing.

Functions. Over the last 3 years our functions have gone from making a healthy surplus to making a loss. A great deal depends on attendances, particularly at the Weekend School. Membership Fee. It is reasonable to expect that this should cover things like insurance, printing, meetings, publicity and attendance at HQ events by officials. Again there has been a move from surplus to deficit.

Conclusions. The actions of the committee are being successful in reducing the annual deficits. The coming increases and the cost reductions already made are essential. Increase in number of members (unlikely) and better attendance at functions by our members would help.

David Reid

Branch AGM

Thursday 7th September 2017
7.30p.m.

Helensburgh Parish Church Hall

Followed by dancing

Competitions & Demonstrations Through the Decades



Greenock Music Festival—Mixed Team Winners 1980s



Arrochar Dancing for Charity 1990s



Marina Smith's Wedding Rosslea Hotel 1990s

For Your Diary

AGM	07 September	2017	TBC	Best of the Bands (after AGM)
Mini Charity Dance	20 October	2017	St Joseph's Upper Hall	Best of the Bands
Annual Ball	10 November	2017	Victoria Halls	David Oswald
December Dance	09 December	2017	Cardross Church Hall	Sandy Nixon
Members' Dance	12 January	2017	St Joseph's Upper Hall	James Coutts
Charity Dance	16 February	2018	TBC	Ian Muir
Weekend Ball	06 April	2018	Hermitage Academy	Frank Thompson
Weekend Class	07 April	2018	Hermitage Academy	Teacher Janet Johnston
Weekend Dance	07 April	2018	Hermitage Academy	Marian Anderson
Weekend Coffee Morning	08 April	2018	Commodore Hotel	Teacher Janet Johnston

Branch Classes

General

Helensburgh Parish Church
Mondays
8pm - 10pm

Teacher: Roy Bain
Starts: 02 October 2017

Couples

Helensburgh Parish Church
Thursdays
8pm - 10pm

Teacher: Helen Bain
Starts: 05 October 2017

Junior Classes

Guide Hall, John Street
Tuesdays
4:00pm - 5:00pm (5 - 10yrs)

Teacher: Helen Rodger
Starts: 20 September 2017

Guide Hall, John Street
Wednesdays
4:15p.m. - 5:15p.m. (10yrs+)

Teacher: Helen Rodger
Starts: 21 September 2017

Other adult classes in the area

Cove & Kilcreggan SCD Class

Cove Burgh Hall
Tuesdays: 10am Teacher: Helen Bain 01436 842695
Starts: 03 October 2017

Helensburgh SCD Club

Pillar Hall, Victoria Halls
Tuesdays: 8pm Teacher: Anne Thorn 01436 677474
Starts: 26 September 2017

Wednesday Morning SCD Class

John Street Guide Hall
Wednesdays: 9.45am Teacher: Helen Rodger
07930156225
Starts: 27 September 2017

Thursday Afternoon SCD Club

John Street Guide Hall
Thursdays: 2pm Teacher: Douglas Thomson 01436 679192
Starts: 28 September 2017

Rosneath SCD Club

Rosneath Primary School
Thursdays: 7.30pm Teacher: Douglas Thomson. Contact
Aileen Couper: 01436 831602
Starts: 28 September 2017

We welcome any contributions for the next issue by
2 September 2017