

# Helensburgh & District RSCDS



## UPDATE

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

### Inside this issue:

### Junior End of Term Party



The Junior dancers held their end of term party in the Guide Hall at the end of March. Of the sixteen dancers who attended, six were new to dancing, four started in February and two in March. The children chose the programme. They danced very well and managed to get through the following dances: Prince of Orange, Cumberland Reel, Leap Year, Haymakers, Canadian Barn Dance, Gay Gordons/Rhu Gordons and Jig to the Music. The older children danced Petronella, Domino Five and Mr Michael Bear's Reel. They all finished by dancing The Flying Scotsman. There was a brief interval for juice, crisps and biscuits.

It was enjoyed by all and several of the parents stayed to watch.  
Helen Rodger

### A Message from Our Chairman

Hello Fellow Dancers.

Here we are at the end of summer preparing for the AGM on the 7th September. Looking back at events since the last update, the Branch Weekend comes to mind. Firstly, a big thank you to Roy Bain for standing in for our Weekend Secretary, Helen Cameron, who was unable to come to the Weekend at the last minute. This was a great Weekend enjoyed by all who attended, even though the numbers were slightly down on last year.

Let's hope you are all aware that 2018 is the 40th Anniversary of the Branch Weekend. It's our Ruby Anniversary Weekend and I hope you are looking forward to attending all or part of the Weekend: the Friday night Ball, the Class on Saturday morning with our invited teacher Janet Johnson or the Saturday night Dance and of course the coffee morning on Sunday with our invited teacher giving a talk. All details are on our new Website.

After the Easter Holidays those who were able to, attended Anne Thorn's Summer Class. Many Branch members joined in with the Tuesday Club dancers to make up 4-5 sets every week. Anne always has a theme for these dances, most of which are new dances to all of us. This Summer the themes linked to nature: animals, the seasons and flowers e.g. "The Auld Grey Cat", "The Prairie Crocus" and "Autumn Tidings". Anne would tell us who wrote the dance and the story behind it, so it was interesting and, amusing too.

*Continued on next page.*

Junior Party	
Message from our Chairman	1
Message from our Chairman cont	2
RNLI Donation	
Navy Day Demonstration	3
A Trip to Dunfermline	3
Trip to Dunfermline cont	4
Helensburgh Weekend	
Helensburgh Weekend cont	5
Rosemary Watson	5
TAS Spring 2017	6
The Beginner	7
TAS Autumn 2017	7
Who Can You Spot?	7
For your Diary	8

### Committee

- *Chairman* Pam Fennell
- *Secretary* Irene Smith
- Telephone 01436 810336
- [irene.colin@btinternet.com](mailto:irene.colin@btinternet.com)
- *Treasurer* David Reid
- *Secretary 2* Helen Bain
- *Archivist* Nan Dearie

Good fun was had by all and classes finished with a Party Night with 10 of the dances on the programme.

Another story of the Branch has been brought to my attention. This year, 2017, could have been the 90th Anniversary of the Helensburgh Branch but for the intervention of the Second World War. Here is just a soupçon - more detail will be given at the AGM.

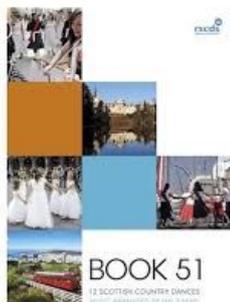
On 7th October 1927, the West Dumbartonshire Branch of the SCDS was formed with Sir Ian Colquhoun of Luss elected as the first Honorary President. There were branch reports in the SCDS Bulletin up until October 1938 when they ceased. The 1943 SCDS Bulletin stated that no classes were held during the war years as the halls had been taken over for the war effort. There are however stories of private classes being held during that time!

The Branch was not given permission to reform and become a member of the Society again until 1952, thus there was a 60th Anniversary Ball in the Victoria Halls in 2012.

That's all for this Update. I hope to see many of you at the AGM on the 7th September, with, hopefully, nominations for new committee members. Remember to bring your dancing shoes as there is a short programme of dances within your AGM papers. I wish you more enjoyable dancing in the coming year 2017/18.

Pam Fennell  
Chairman

## Book 51



Book 51 and its accompanying CD (recorded by Ian Muir and his Scottish Dance Band) is now available to order from the RSCDS Online Branch Shop. Videos showing how to do the dances are available to view from the RSCDS website, Facebook page or on YouTube.

## RNLI Donation

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2017 members of the Clyde Cruising Club and our General Class presented Helensburgh RNLI Lifeboat with audio visual equipment worth over £500.

The General Class raised almost £200 from our closing dance whilst the “yotties” of CCC raised just over £300 from one of their “Musters.”



Amongst those present were Clive Reeves, Commodore of the Clyde Cruising Club, past Commodore Dr Patrick Trust with Allan & Marie Carrie & Helen & Roy Bain representing the General Class together with Donald McLaren and Colin Gardner of the RNLI.

Helensburgh RNLI Lifeboat Station takes delivery of a new Atlantic 85 inshore lifeboat in October. This is a larger 4 man rib than the present boat and RNLI are currently trying to raise £20,000 towards the training costs for the new boat. Since much of the training is by digital delivery the A/V equipment is essential.

Roy Bain



## Navy Day Demonstration

I received an early morning phone call on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July from Naval Officer Will Callen of HMS Neptune. He wanted to know if RSCDS Helensburgh Branch would be able to organise a demonstration of Scottish country dancing at HMS Neptune's family day on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> July!

This call eventually led to 17 Branch Members dancing on the Helensburgh Cricket Pitch at Rhu Road Higher on that afternoon!



After the call from Will I contacted our Branch secretaries, Helen Bain and Irene Smith, to see if they were willing to give this idea support. We realised that the request was presented to us with very little notice however Helen and Irene agreed that it would be a wonderful opportunity to let a wider section of the Helensburgh community see what Scottish country dancing was all about.

We agreed to meet at Helen's House the next day where everything was planned and agreed. Helen emailed Branch members to see if they would be willing and able to participate. We made up the programme, Irene circulated a crib, Roy organised the music and we identified a caller for the dances.



Within a few days dancers replied and all were able to attend a rehearsal in the new Parish Hall two days before the demonstration.

The weather forecast for the week beginning the 17<sup>th</sup> of July was horrendous: heavy rain, high winds and thunder storms.

As the day dawned the wind was almost storm force but the rain was forecast to arrive later that night so it was all going ahead.

At the appointed time we moved into sets on the grass. Helen Rodger was an excellent compere and caller of the dances, and Roy had all the music prepared. We had a good fun time.

Helen Rodger had invited three dancers from her junior class who thoroughly enjoyed this outside experience, as did the audience. We also managed to encourage the mums to join in and dance the Flying Scotsman.



SINCERE THANKS TO EVERYONE INVOLVED FOR MAKING IT A VERY ENJOYABLE AFTERNOON.

Pam Fennell

## A Trip to Dunfermline

After a very windblown, interesting and enjoyable afternoon of dancing on the Cricket Ground in Helensburgh as part of the Navy Day of Festivities for Naval Families, we set off for the journey to Dunfermline for their evening dance, with Nan driving.

We stopped on the way for something to eat at the Round House near Stirling, and then travelled on to Dunfermline.

On arrival in Dunfermline we went to Annette's, Nan's daughter's house, where we were treated to a nice cup of tea, and lovely butterfly cakes made by Nan's granddaughter Emily. We were then able to get changed, and tidied up for the evening dance. Annette kindly offered to take us to the venue, and come back for us at the finish, as she knew the location of St Ninian's Church Hall in Abbeyview.



On arrival at the hall, we were warmly welcomed by all (including members of Dunfermline Branch who attend our Weekend) We had a great night of dancing, a lovely supper, great music by Susan MacFadyen's Trio and got to know lots of new faces. There was no shortage of partners, and lots of help with unfamiliar dances.

Annette picked us up at the end of the dance, and took us back to pick up the car. We said our farewells to the family and set off for home.

Our journey was not as straightforward as we would have wished, as they had closed the Kincardine Bridge, and we were diverted to the Clackmannanshire Bridge, a bit of a detour through wee places we had never heard of, but Nan took it in her stride, and delivered us safely home.

Thanks to Nan we had a most enjoyable fun day at the Navy Venue, and a great evening of dancing, also a lovely bonus in meeting, and enjoying the company of Nan's lovely family.

It's great that dancers from other areas attend our dances/Weekend so it's nice to repay the favour. Why don't you give it a go—there are lots of dances across west central Scotland to attend over the summer months. We even travelled to the Summer Dancing in Troon on Mondays!

Irene Fairbairn

## Helensburgh Weekend

On the Friday evening Scott Band & his band were okay - they didn't lift off as they were capable of however it was still a good night. The Saturday Class, from all reports, was good, a teacher with a dry sense of humour – certainly suited me. There was a slight overrun on time at the end with lots of dancers wishing to talk to the Teacher & Musician. That in itself is the sign of a good class.



The weather on Saturday was good with our visitors exploring the Rosneath Peninsula, Loch Lomond and Helensburgh.

Saturday evening – what can I say? The dancers were in good form. From their perspective they had an excellent programme of dances for the Weekend and Jim Lindsay and the band responded accordingly. It was a fabulous night of dancing with the dancers giving Jim a “standing ovation.”



The hotel were well prepared for Sunday and Anne Robertson gave an interesting talk using her knowledge as a dance teacher and a Scottish Tour Guide, with support from Susan MacFadyen who provided original tunes for the various locations and dances.

Catering – Personally I thought it was excellent. We had some leftovers from the Saturday buffet

with our coffee on Sunday morning and when I told one of the visitors it was on the table the immediate reaction was – “That buffet was fabulous last night.”

An excellent Weekend - all based on the sound foundations, organisation and hard work of Helen Cameron – our Weekend Secretary – who unfortunately was unable to be there to enjoy the fruits of her labour.

A total of 102 dancers registered to attend at least one event over the Weekend, of whom 51 were Helensburgh area, not necessarily Branch members. We had 73 dancers at both the Ball and Dance and 49 attended both the Class and Sunday talk



Now it's time to look at 2018, our 40th Weekend School. Planning is well advanced, flyers have been handed out around UK and Europe – now it is time to put the dates in your diary – Friday 6th till Sunday 8th April 2018.

The first 4 tickets have now been sold and no prices published yet!! That's the enthusiasm from our visitors.

Roy Bain



## Rosemary Watson

It is with sadness that I write to say a long-time Scottish country dancer, Rosemary Watson, died on the 8th of June 2017 after a long illness. Rosemary attended this year's Helensburgh Weekend (knowing it would be her last) to see all of her friends and fellow dancers.



*l to r: Rhona Dickson, Rosemary Watson, Helen Rodger, Bernadette Darroch and Joan Parker.*

Rosemary and her husband Alistair started dancing in this area in the 1960s. Both were members of the Tuesday Club and Couples Class. They also took part in various demonstrations. When Norah Dunn left the area, Rosemary taught the 3-5 year old's Children's Class. She was asked to take a class for adults (mostly mums) during the day so she started the Wednesday morning class.



*Rosemary is second from the left in the front row beside Norah Dunn*

As well as running her own nursery school on West Montrose Street until she retired, she was very active in the local community: she was a church elder and Guild President in Park Church as well as being active on the Guide Committee. We shall miss her.

Helen Rodger.

## TAS—Spring 2017

On Friday, 12th May, Roy & I headed to Dumfries to attend the spring meeting of Teachers' Association Scotland, travelling by a rather roundabout route as we had never visited the Maritime Museum in Irvine and thought that was as good an opportunity as we would get to visit.

The museum was very interesting and reminded us of our childhood days in Greenock when the major employers were the shipyards – every family had at least one member who worked in the yards. There was also a fair bit of information on the days of the Clyde steamers, which again brought back memories.

After some lunch there, we set off again by the country roads to find the Premier Inn where we were staying the night – and met in the foyer with Jenny Greene who had been our Weekend teacher a couple of years ago. Do you remember how unimpressed she was of our rendition of The Dancing Master at the Sunday morning talk? (Perhaps enough said!!!).

Saturday morning dawned and off we went to the community centre where the TAS workshop was being held, meeting up with a good number of SCD friends as one always does. (The friendships are as important as the dancing, I think.)

There followed an extremely interesting day of dancing. The first session was taken by Johann McLean and was called “Back to the Fundamentals”, making everyone think of posture and moving properly.

Do you always remember to place the foot down properly, from toes to ball and rolling down to heel, not just plonking it down? She reminded us not to forget the “hop” when we are dancing – “the hop is the spring of youth!” Unfortunately, for most of us youth is a distant memory but it was lovely watching the several young teachers who were there and admiring their flight.

After that, we were all more than ready for our packed lunch which was followed by a much shorter session run by Maureen McCrudden, again of Glasgow Branch, who taught some of her favourite dances for a successful class.

The last session of the day was organised by Jimmie Hill and was about useful unpublished dances. Jimmie always does an amazing amount of research and produced a most interesting and

informative lesson and document about dancing in the 18th & 19th centuries. Among the plethora of newly devised dances which surround us today, it was fascinating to hear the background to some very old dances which have fallen out of favour.

The musician for the entire day's workshop was Luke Brady who was in superb form and showed us what an incredibly versatile musician he is. After our very full day, our journey home was by the fastest route – the M74. Having had a relaxing day to get there, our return journey was made in about two and a half hours, home to collapse but be inspired and awaiting our next TAS meeting on 26th August at which meeting, the AGM, I finish my term of office on the committee so I can relax and sit back(!!!)

Helen Bain

### **Cove & Kilcreggan Annual SCD**

**Cove Burgh Hall G84 0LY**

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

**£7**

**With a raffle & afternoon tea  
Music by “Best of the Bands”**

Everyone is welcome. It's an easy programme. All dances can be walked through. The timing of the dance fits in with bus services from Helensburgh to Cove and back.

A quotation spotted on the internet:

*"You don't stop dancing because you grow old,  
you grow old because you stop dancing."*

**Answers—Who Can You Spot?**

L to r: Christine Kirkpatrick, Alma Trail, Dorothy Capstick, Helen Murray, Moira Thomson, Helen Bain

The new session of Scottish Country dancing is about to start. It would be great if we could encourage friends and acquaintances to come along and join in a hobby full of fun, friendship and fitness.

## The Beginner

I joined a Scottish Dancing Class,  
We started last September.  
I'm trying hard – I really am,  
There's so much to remember.

I know the experienced dancers,  
It's very easy to spot 'em.  
They gaily stand at the top of the set  
And I slink down to the bottom.

I keep one eye on the teacher  
And one on the rest of the set,  
I try to watch my partner as well,  
But haven't succeeded yet.

It's very important to know the start  
Of the dance about to be done.  
If you're not quite sure of the first eight bars  
You are bound to be number one.

Everyone's very helpful  
And tells me what to do,  
But I get mixed up with my sexes,  
When ladies are men, wouldn't you?

And when it's reels we are doing  
I'm soon a total loss,  
There's reels of four and reels of three,  
Reels down and reels across.

There even are diagonal reels!  
But when our teacher said  
"Don't do an eight bar reel in six"  
My brain reeled in my head!

But I'm going to keep on trying,  
The music is lovely to hear,  
And maybe I'll know which corner is which  
At the end of the dancing year.

Pat Bratt

## TAS—Autumn 2017

On Saturday the 26th of August Roy and Helen Bain, Helen Rodger, David Smith (our dancing friend from Taunton who also has a house in Drymen) and myself travelled to Broxburn to attend the TAS Autumn Workshop and AGM.

The morning session on Book 51 was taken jointly by Sue Porter and Janet Johnston whilst in the afternoon John Wilkinson explored the finer points of organising demonstrations. This was followed by the AGM. Live music was provided by Mo Rutherford as well the sounds of the pipe bands and sirens which drifted in the open windows from the Broxburn Gala Day Parade!

Anne Thorn

## Who Can You Spot? (see page 6)



*RSCDS AGM Dundee 1996 in Dundee  
College of Education*

## Equality?

Our Assistant Secretary was reading through the minutes in the Branch archive and came across this entry in Branch Minutes of 20th September 1971 re the Couples Class:

*"The Committee agreed that all members of the Committee are eligible for membership of the Couples Class in their own right. Single men are also eligible on application to the secretary. Single ladies to apply to secretary for admission and if suitable vacancies they will be admitted, failing this their names will be placed on a waiting list and the Secretary shall notify them as soon as a vacancy occurs. Mrs Savage was appointed an honorary member of the Class. A letter was read from Miss Jamieson, a past chairman, applying for continued membership and this was agreed to."*

## For your Diary

AGM	07 September	2017	Helensburgh Parish Church Hall	Best of the Bands (after AGM)
Mini Charity Dance	20 October	2017	Helensburgh Parish Church 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	2018	Rhu Community Centre	James Coutts
Charity Dance	16 February	2018	Victoria Halls	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

Venue - Helensburgh Parish Church Hall  
Mondays  
8pm - 10pm

Teacher: Roy Bain  
Starts: 02 October 2017

### Couples

Venue - Helensburgh Parish Church Hall  
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: 26 September 2017

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

Teacher: Helen Rodger  
Starts: 27 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  
1 December 2017