

HELENSBURGH & DISTRICT BRANCH OF ENABLE

CHAIRPERSON REPORT 2026

Both Tuesday and Thursday clubs are running at capacity now which is great. We have welcomed a few new members again this year, the branch is in a good place at present.

Tuesday club is held in the Helensburgh community Hub which is a great location and a great space to do our activities. It is owned by the community for the community.

Thursday nights we use the United Reform Church Hall and have done now for over 20 years.

We have a 2 monthly programme set out by our new secretary Eilidh MacPherson. This is so our members know what is on each Tuesday and Thursday night and can decide if they would like to attend club that night or not although most of them come along regardless for the company and friendship of others.

Our new secretary has been in position now for over a year and must say she has done a great job. She has applied for funding from: ACHA, MUSIC IN THE SQUARE, COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH & WELLBEING and HELENSBURGH HART and has been successful in all applications.

We now have a quarterly newsletter set up for all members of our branch and this is distributed through the secretary to keep everyone up to date with what we have been up to throughout the months.

The success of our clubs can be attributed to the commitment of our volunteers who work tirelessly to ensure the clubs run twice a week without fail..... I would like to thank them all for the time and effort they put into making our clubs a success. Without them it just would not happen.

Our volunteers are, Liz MacDonald, Josephine Anderson, Margaret Miller, Jean Cavana, Luke Healy, Tony Pearson (fundraising coordinator), Lesley Healy (Treasurer) Lucy McKee, David Butler, Kelly Andrews, Jan Lightfoot, Fiona Johnston, Margaret McWalters, May McKell as well as myself, Angela Pearson (chairperson). We would also like to welcome our newest volunteer to the team Roseanne Dunn. Finally, Ean MacDonald and Tina Smith are 2 club members that help take the subs at the start of the night. Ean does the Tuck Shop and Tina does the dishes. We also have 2 young volunteers that have joined to offer help and support. Maya Cairney and Caitlin Walker.

I would also like to thank all the guys that attend the clubs, they help too, from giving us their ideas for fun nights, to setting up tables etc and clearing up afterwards (well most of them that don't make excuses lol). The clubs belong to them so it's only fair they have a part to play in organising, leading and swapping ideas.

Tuesday nights have included Music quizzes with David, table games, fitness and chair yoga with Julie, bingo with Demi and Tina

Thursday club have also enjoyed various activities including, Boccia, Film nights, Arts & crafts, karaoke, just some of our club nights as well as a local band that give up their time and come along every couple of months, Susan & Co (Toast). The band are great and get all the guys involved, they have even promoted one of our club members Barrie Watkins to being their drummer. (On the night they visit).

We visit one of our other local branches in Alexandria for parties and events as well as welcoming their members and volunteers coming along to our club too.

FUNDRAISING

This year we have had a few funding bids that have been successful. This has been a welcome break from all the fundraising events that we like to normally participate in throughout the year giving some of the volunteers and sponsors a little respite.

We have been very lucky with donations this year too. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the following Organisations: Buddies in Boats, Neptune Lodge (Buffalos) Helensburgh Bowling Club, Gary Andrews Remember a Life and the Coffee Corner for their generous donations to our Branch.

FINANCIAL REPORT

I would like to thank Lesley Healy (treasurer) for the financial report which has now been submitted to OSCR.

We have a healthy bank balance at present. This is a great achievement as in the last few years it has been so difficult for lots of groups and charities to survive as we go through the cost-of-living crisis.

Any fundraising Ideas and help with fundraising are greatly appreciated as we all want to do our utmost to keep the clubs running for as long as we can.

PERSONAL

One of our members Alastair Robertson has been a bit poorly this year and had to have quite a major operation. We want to let him know we wish him a speedy recovery. As well as Alistair Oliver Ledingham and Lucy McKee have also had surgery and are both doing great and recovering well.

FINALLY

I as the chairperson would personally like firstly to thank Eilidh MacPherson our secretary for all the hard work she has done for the branch in the last year securing funding for us to enable. Also, I would like to thank Lesley Healy for keeping our funds in check as our treasurer for the last few years.

I would also like to thank all the committee members for their hard work in helping the branch thrive and last but certainly not least I would like to say a great big thanks to all the volunteers for their commitment to both our clubs by giving up some of their time as I know time is precious for everyone. If it was not for these people giving up that time to come along EVERY week, we would not be able to function therefore we would not be able to do the fun things we do with our members.

Also, a great big thanks to everyone that holds one of our charity tins in their premises. We really appreciate your support of our branch, and these tins add up week after week, month after month to raise funds for the branch.

They are:

HDBE held a Christmas pantomime this year which was Grease Enable style at the end of last year which was written by Liz MacDonald (volunteer) and the costumes were done by Josephine Anderson (volunteer) Narrated by Margaret Miller (volunteer) and produced by all the other volunteers. We invited along a few of the local business owners that have donated to us throughout the year to be part of the audience. The feedback we got was brilliant. Some of the audience said afterwards that it was the best show they had been to for years. They laughed, they cried, they cheered, but most of all they loved it.

Trustees:

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|----------------------------|-------------------|
| • Chairperson | Angela Pearson |
| • Secretary | Eilidh MacPherson |
| • Treasurer | Lesley Healy |
| • Fundraising co Ordinator | Tony Pearson |

Committee Members:

As above as well as

- Luke Healy (volunteer)
- Mags Miller (volunteer))
- Liz MacDonald (volunteer)
- Jo Anderson (volunteer)
- David Butler (volunteer)
- Lucy McKee (volunteer)
- Ean MacDonald (club member)
- Zoe Pearson (club member)
- Barrie Watkins (club member)

In the past our short breaks have been very popular including the Edinburgh Tattoo, Blackpool, Coronation Street, Harry Potter experience, and even a one-night cruise from Glasgow to Newcastle to experience cruising! Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It is with regret that as a branch we can no longer offer short breaks as we cannot get enough volunteers to do this safely and the safety of our members is paramount to us. We will however still be able to offer day trips away. We are going to have a trip to Oban by train.

ACE Group (Advisory committee to Enable)

Our ACE/Advocacy group has stopped in our area, and we are unsure if it will restart unfortunately. This group was run for the local service users of Enable to have a say in matters that they believe in and that affect their health, wellbeing and their lives in general.

Boots the chemist, Station Bar, Aston Bar, Bet Fred bookies, Gordons Chemist, Home Hardware, Colgrain Bowling Club and Natures Harvest.

Thanks to all the local businesses that always donate prizes to help us to fundraise at our events. Without the help from these people, it would be very difficult for us to make the much-needed funds we require to keep us going.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of HDBE. Their happiness makes it all worthwhile. I personally like to think that the Branch is a great asset to the town and has been now for many, many years and hopefully will be for many more years to come, but we do need to always be actively looking for volunteers to enable us to keep it going.

Direct quotes from some of our members:

I would miss the clubs and my friends if they were not here.

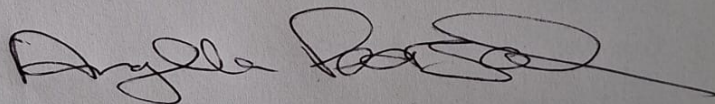
Who would wash the dishes They can't do without me.

Tuesdays and Thursdays are my favourite days in the week.

I feel safe at club and can have fun.

I am lost for something to do on a Tuesday and Thursday night when the clubs are not on as there is not much for people with a learning or physical disability to do in town.

Completed by
Angela Pearson
Chairperson
HDBE



Chairperson

HDBE.

28/7/26