



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

April 2016 Newsletter

Well it's been a funny kind of month - still can't take on board that Easter has come and gone, I suppose because there was no manic last minute preparation for the Festival. It was strange to have time on my hands at this time of year however it had its perks as Bettine and myself managed to go to Edinburgh for a weekend with the girls which other years I just wouldn't have been able to do.

Apart from ourselves and the country fans missing the Festival it was obvious that the town lost out - it was very quiet not the usual Easter Weekend buzz, I was down the street on Friday and Saturday and the shops and retailers were saying that takings were down due to the lack of Festival visitors.

Another person that was clearly missing out on his weekend in Halkirk was radio presenter and reporter Stewart Fenwick. I always try and tune into his Country Show on Sunday at midday on www.celticmusicradio.net if I miss it then I get it on catch up when I am working on the computer through the week. He devoted his full two-hour show on Sunday to past Festival artistes - it was a super programme listening to it I thought what a cross section of artistes we have showcased something different year on year. It certainly brought back loads of memories and I am sure you that listened to it would have had your own thoughts. Ronnie Prophet can see him and Glory Anne now entertaining the residents in Achvarasdale House, David Ball, the hunky Travis Le Doyt, from Canada Michelle Wright, South Mountain our heart of Texas friends, lots of European acts including my favourite Frank Jansen and, of course, as Stewart does on a regular basis he plays something from our local bands. Nice touch when he played the Bobby Flores number Country Girl for two of our loyal and regular country girls Norma and Norah (I know you two missed the weekend hopefully we will catch up with you soon). I really enjoyed the programme made me feel both very sad and happy the last song Stewart played was appropriately a David Frizell number called When Can We Do This Again (a burning question). Stewart, you thanked us for our hard work in producing the Festivals but we have to thank you for your help, support write ups and friendship over the years we missed catching up with you and Shona this year.

To soften the blow, we had our club on Good Friday: not a very busy show but we did have a few visitors with it being the holiday weekend so that was nice. Kentucky Rain and the Duke Boys provided the entertainment and that's certainly what they gave us both acts brilliant a night of pure country.



This was the second visit to the club for Kentucky Rain; Darren Colt Murphy & Kris Davies were with us last April along with Manson Grant & The Dynamos. The guys travelled from Preston, Lancashire and this time they managed to get a few more dates, so were doing a mini Scottish Tour making their trip more worthwhile. However, things hadn't got off to a great start for them following their first gig - Colt was packing their gear into the van when he missed a step went down with the speaker landing on his foot & badly twisted his ankle. It was twice the size it should be and very badly bruised and sore so he was hobbling around helped by a stick & he had sit down on stage giving him a numb bum by the end of the night. That wasn't the end of their problems they had trouble with the reverse gear on their van and then broke the window of their caravan. That was three things so hopefully the rest of their visit went smoothly for them. If you remember last time Kentucky Rain were with us they had a slightly different interpretation of 'cabaret' than we expected; they gave us everything from Elvis to George Formby. Colt told me that he read my report in Brigitte's magazine, until then hadn't realised anything was wrong, but had a good laugh about it; I said that everyone really enjoyed it and they could repeat again if they wanted, but no pure country spot this time.

Darren on lead vocals and rhythm is the brother of top British female country singer Donna Wylde and played as part of her band before branching out on his own he has a great voice made for singing country. Kris on lead originally from Scotland who has been based in England since 1979 has played as part of several bands and duos aside from singing harmonies he also treated us to some numbers.

Like last time the boys received a great reception from the crowd and during their spots they covered some numbers we don't often hear couple of my particular favourites being Vertical Expression, Tempted & Cabo San Lucas along with firm favourites and some brilliant self-penned numbers. They are a couple of great guys who really enjoy playing the clubs in Scotland they think it's great to see the social dancing unlike the English scene when they have to cater for line dancing. They are planning to come back again next year so hope they don't miss the NNCMC out on their places to play.



Local guys George, Nigel and Alisdair were joined on stage this time by Elgin guy Miki Sim the brilliant guitarist we have seen many times play as part of Broken Wing and have to say the Duke Boys gave an outstanding performance. The boys looked very smart on stage changing for both sets; we hadn't heard them since last year's festival and I was impressed by their very polished performance; no wonder they are in such demand from country clubs all across the country they have recently returned from Shetland and have a tour scheduled later this year around the North East of England. What a difference it makes having a band on stage playing live music these guys all have many years' experience on the music scene backing many top class acts during their career. They are a busy crew Nigel goes out playing at home and away frequently with Colin McFeat as Neon, with Alisdair, Colin & Barry as Frayed Edges and George gigs as a solo artist and he has recently released two CD's one features country covers the other his self-penned numbers. During the course of the night we heard a wide range of music from the Duke Boys lots of up tempo dance tunes that kept the crowd on the floor but also some of George's ballads and lots of good country songs, Kris joined them on stage to bring an excellent night to a close.

I mentioned last month that Loretta Lynn has released a new album and then I noticed that there was a write up about in Country Music People magazine which tells us there could be further releases to follow, so definitely no plans to retire from what she loves doing.

Also earlier in the month Ally spied a documentary film about Loretta on some obscure Sky channel which he taped and what a brilliant watch it was. I had previously seen the film Coal Miners Daughter starring Sissy Spacek and a few documentaries about Loretta's life but this was a new one on me. Obviously the same story documenting her life but put across very differently Sissy spoke of their relationship before and after the film singing duets together. They spent lots of time on Loretta's relationship with husband Mooney which was fiery and turbulent to say the least but surprisingly enough they managed to stay together through all the ups and downs. Their son and twin daughters spoke of their upbringing and childhood on the farm whilst their mum was on the road. If you ever in the area of Hurricane Mills in Tennessee it's well worth taking the time to go for a visit we went a few years ago there's interesting museums and displays of memorabilia, mementos and awards from her career. You can go round her impressive plantation house, the replica of the Bucher Holler home where she was raised, the simulated coal mine, they frequently hold concerts and events and you can even get married. We had something to eat in Loretta's Kitchen all good home cooked traditional Southern country food. Loretta is certainly one of the most important female country singers of all times.

On March 29th Glen Campbell was the recipient of a Career Achievement Award sadly just around the time that the family announced that he has now returned to a care home as he has entered stage 7, the final one of Alzheimer's disease they are no longer in a position to offer him the care he needs and fear the end may be near.

Kenny Rogers recently informed us that he was postponing some tour dates due to a minor illness however it looked that maybe it was more serious than first suspected when he announced his retirement due to being unwell but did not reveal the nature or the severity. Just noticed it can't be too serious he has rescheduled his Gamblers Last Deal Tour and has included two dates at the London Palladium in November so that's good news Kenny now 77, had 120 hit singles and sold 175 million albums during his 50-year career. Kenny who has been married five times said he eventually got it right and has been with wife Wanda for more than 20 years and they have eleven-year-old twin boys.

It was reportedly recently in a celebrity mag that Blake Shelton was heading for re-entering rehab due to excessive drinking following his break up with Miranda Lambert. Blake is suing the magazine for two million dollars claiming all allegations are totally unfounded he states that he has never been in rehab, does not drink vodka on a regular basis and ex Miranda did not catch him in their house entertaining bunch of women. He appears to be very happy in his relationship with Gwen Stefani and it was him who ended the marriage to Miranda.

Mid-March saw a tribute concert to Kris Kristofferson taking place in the Bridgestone Arena Nashville, the two-hour extravaganza featured many of country greats including Willie Nelson, Alison Krauss, Martins Mc Bride, Lee Ann Womack, Emmylou Harris & Rodney Crowell. Together they sang their way through his musical career for some the highlight was when Kris joined Reba McEntire on stage to sing Me and Bobby Magee.

Speaking about Reba the 61-year-old singer has just announced that after 25 years she will be managing her own career, if you remember she divorced Narvel Blackstone who was also her manager in 2015 and the two said then they would continue to work together. However, it looks like that's no longer the case mind you I think it would be bad enough for husband and wife working together when you are married never mind after a divorce, Narvel manages Blake Shelton & Kelly Clarkson amongst others.

I suppose many of you watched with tears in your eyes like me the very touching funeral of Joey Feek on Facebook. Just as Joey wanted in a private ceremony on March 8th she was carried in a pine casket on a covered wagon from the couple's barn where they held their concerts before being laid to rest in a cemetery behind their farmhouse a wooden cross marking the spot. Rory was extremely brave he spoke throughout the service about their life and time together. Although he plans to write a book about Joey's life he is saying he doesn't want to continue singing without her it's very early days yet but surely he'll continue to write. Maybe he'll get together with daughter Heidi sometime in the future: the couple brought her on stage to sing with them when they appeared in Halkirk – she has a beautiful voice and is a lovely singer. The Opry has released a film of the couple appearing at the Ryman Auditorium in November 2013 singing the Buck Owens number Play Me The Waltz Of The Angels.

The 27th Heart of Texas Festival took place in Brady Texas between the 17th & 26th March 10 days of pure western swing and traditional country music with a brilliant line up including Tony Booth, Bobby Flores, Justin Trevino, Amber Digby, Jeff Wolsey & Kimberly Murray not forgetting the fabulous Heart of Texas Band all of whom have

appeared as part of our Festival. I would love to go back again to one of their events what a brilliant time we had when we were there everyone was so friendly and welcoming.

Singer Songwriter 76-year-old David Alan Coe is facing prison sentence due to unpaid taxes amounting to four hundred and sixty-six thousand dollars. David performs 100 concerts per year but apparently foolishly failed to include this on his tax returns. David had a rough start in life he was in reform school at young age then a spell in prison before moving to Nashville writing the Johnny Paycheck hit Take This Job and Shove It – his claim to fame –

I noticed that this year's inductees into the Country Music Hall of Fame will be Randy Travis and Charlie Daniels. Randy as you know suffered a massive stroke in 2013 he wasn't expected to make it and the doctors asked his wife Mary if she agreed to pull the plug on him, thankfully she made the toughest decision of her life and refused to do so knowing he would continue to fight. Which he did rehabilitation has been amazing he is making public appearances talking, walking better than anyone though possible.

Charlie Daniels, now 79 years old, has been performing since the 50's and been a member of the Grand Ole Opry best known for his contribution to bluegrass music, amazing fiddle playing also for his platinum No1 hit The Devil Went Down To Georgia. The third inductee this year is record producer Fred Foster.

The Academy of Country Music Awards will be taking place on April 3rd in Las Vegas no doubt not many surprises amongst them will let you know the results next time but I would imagine Chris Stapleton, Jason Aldean, Dirks Bentley would be amongst the contenders for the men and Maranda Lambert & Carrie Underwood for the women. I did notice that after this year's awards there will then have been a total of 50 Song of the Year winners, the list of them was created using a point system for different honours and accolades. The top 8 are as follows

- 8, He Stopped Loving Her Today---- George Jones
- 7, It's Your Love ---- Faith Hill & Tim McGraw
- 6, Where Were You When The World Stopped Turning ---- Alan Jackson
- 5, Okie From Muskogee ---- Merle Haggard
- 4, Live Like You Were Dying ---- Tim McGraw
- 3, Wichita Lineman ---- Glen Campbell
- 2, Hope You Danc3e ---- Lee Ann Womack
- 1, Rhinestone Cowboy ---- Glen Campbell

Didn't really expect some of them to be up there think I would have a few different songs in there.

Not long now until that great young Irish entertainer Nathan Carter returns as part of his tour which began this week he plays the Assembly Rooms Wick on the 14th April before going across to Orkney for two gigs. Nathan has just released his new self-penned single Temple Bar which will also feature on his forth coming album Stayin All Night due to be released at the end of April. Nathan returned home to Ireland for Easter following some dates in England the highlight of which must have been playing in Trafalgar Square to an audience of 25,000.

Well I think that's it for the moment

Until next time

Keep it country

Christine