



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

August 2014 Newsletter

Well for me July has just disappeared, my Mum passed away on the 9th although she had been in a care home since January suffering from dementia it was quite a shock as it was very sudden but thankfully peaceful in the end the way she would have wanted it. It's not been easy and will take a bit of getting used to as for the last four years we have been looking after Mum's needs.

To move on: As Sandy said to the audience on Friday night "go away and tell the people who weren't there what a brilliant night they missed" and he was right they certainly did.

Thankfully we had a better crowd than the last couple of months I realise its holiday time but we could have done with a few more turning up. However we had lots of visitors including from Cambeltown Esther and Hector along with some of their family who joined us to celebrate their Golden Wedding they had a great night. We had a crowd from Invergordon, June and Dodd from Golspie, Isobel Mackay on holiday from Canada who was a regular before she emigrated.

We know that Country Features have a loyal fan base and following from all over the country so it was no surprise that Florence's No. 1 fan Eric Gunn from Edinburgh travelled to see them as did Jackie Craig the country radio presenter from Oban F.M.

Although I had seen Country Features earlier this year in the Triple C it's Christmas show 2012 since they last played for us so we were delighted to have them back sadly since they were last with us Florence lost her husband to M.S. complications.

They are a genuine couple very friendly and down to earth but with a professional attitude, they never forgot anyone's name and ensure they take the time to chat with all their fans we certainly have a soft spot for them in NNCCM. They always co-ordinate their out fits Florence was looking as glamorous as ever whilst I can't say the same about Robbie suffice to say he was say looking smart - and yes they didn't forget the sweeties --

They love the crack and enjoy themselves on stage making sure everyone else does the same; they provided a great selection of music getting the dance floor busy with their varied selection of tunes from traditional Irish to American country new and classic.

Florence is an accomplished songwriter and we heard some of her self-penned numbers including *Hand On My Heart*, *Take Me Home Love me Forever* & *Alone Here Without You* along with songs from their Albums and DVD's.



This was first time in the club for our next act Anthony McBrien, but of course not for Broken Wing who were supporting him. Anthony and Robbie both come from Fermanagh and they were joking saying that they had to come all the way to Thurso to get a booking.

Anthony who is the youngest in a family of 14 started in the business twenty years ago but after struggling to cope with several tragedies just as his career was taking off he lost the zest for the stage. But after being persuaded by Gene Stuart he came back with a vengeance there's no disputing he's an all-round entertainer with a real country voice and certainly has a way of working the crowd.

Always good to catch up with Broken Wing great bunch of guy's excellent musicians who do a fantastic job of backing top Irish and American acts joining the boys this time on drums was Cy Mutch who we saw last playing in Shaun Loughrey's band. Anthony covered all types of music but mainly stuck to country covers from his influences his main one being Randy Travis he also included tracks from his latest album *Choices*.

Some years ago Anthony lost his mother with whom he had a great relationship he wrote a song in her memory entitled Mothers Song which he sung for us lovely song with beautiful words however not the best for the way I was feeling on Friday night but I certainly wasn't the only one with a tear in my eye.

Judging by his performance and the reception he got it may have been his first but certainly won't be his last visit to NNCCM: a great atmosphere, good fun two superb acts what more could you ask for.



I suppose the big thing this week is the cancellation of the Garth Brooks concerts in Dublin which were scheduled to take place over this weekend, what a disappointment to all the fans from all over the world who had bought tickets, hotel rooms and made travel arrangements and what a loss to their economy. Thousands of fans still made the trip to Ireland irrespective of the fact that the concerts were cancelled and I am sure they would have managed to find some great country music and enjoyed their trip. Not quite sure who's at fault the Chief Executive says that at no stage did he agree to five licences being granted and the promoter is saying that it's Garth's fault he could have done three just now and returned at a later date to do more. To date 330,000 tickets have been refunded doesn't matter who's at fault it's certainly a shambles but we know how politics and councils can operate.

We can now confirm that Moe Bandy will be playing in the Assembly Rooms on Friday 3rd October along with Nicky James & the State of the Heart Band and the great fiddle player John Permenter. Tickets will be on sale very shortly from myself on 01847892410 or Isobel on 01955 604061 they will cost £20 and we will be running a bus from Thurso and will confirm details later

We are looking for a good crowd so please come along and support this great show on our doorstep if we can't sell this then there must be something far wrong with country fans in the area. Moe is one of America's all-time leading recording artists and to his credit he's had 10 no one hits, 40 top ten hits, 5 Gold Albums has gained awards for Male Vocalist of the Year, Song of the Year, Video of the Year, ACM & CMA Duet of the Year.

He was with us in Halkirk at our 2008 and again for our 2012 festival and he just blew everyone away hundreds just stood at the front of the stage captivated listening to his entire spot whilst he belted out his hits including *Bandy the Rodeo Clown*, *it's a Cheatin Situation* & *I Just Hated Started Hating Cheatin Songs Today*. Moe is still as popular as ever he was and continues to tour all across the States so get your tickets booked if this venture proves to be successful then it might be something we can look at more often and try to get bigger acts to appear in the area - they don't come much bigger than Moe Bandy.



Another big night coming up is the Triple C club night on the 22nd August in the Assembly Rooms it features Jason Mc Gilligan and Lorraine McMillan show sure to be another great night not too be missed. I think they have still tickets available - if you phone Sandy on 01955 605212... there are buses running from Thurso but know that there are only a few seats left, so don't leave it too late.

We will miss it as we have booked to go to the Granite City Festival in Menzies Hotel Aberdeen that weekend. Jason will be appearing at it on the Sat night so will catch him then along with The Davitts, Dave Sheriff, Jolene & Barry, Kenny & Dolly Tribute, and our own Duke Boys. I think there may also be some places still available for that weekend if you ring 01463 811677 or get in touch with Lorraine & Liam... should be fun.

At the moment I am listening to the new CD by Jerry Kilgore whilst I am writing this it's called *Those Seven Years* and I am just loving it (he can do no wrong for me anyway). He has just returned home after a very successful tour of England and festivals in Europe with Nicky James & the State of the Heart Band - no surprise he went down a storm... would have loved to have been there but will have to be content to just listen to him.

Anyway I think that's all I have for this month.

Until next time.

Keep It Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC