



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

December 2009 Newsletter

Can you believe it happened again - two months on the trot! Yes – your right Colette and Country Flavour were forced to cancel due to swine flu so we can't argue with that one.

However Broken Wing kindly agreed to step in at the last minute and save the day and was that a lucky break - they were absolutely brilliant. These three guys Mike, Ian and Mikie are no strangers to the club they always put on a great show but on Friday night they were on top form. They covered a wide range of material which was predominately country and obviously suited the members as the dance floor was heaving all night.

The committee would like to take the opportunity to thank the boys very much for coming to the rescue, good to see the guys again and delighted to see Mike looking so well. They had to leave straight after the show as they had a gig on Saturday night and also Sunday - nice to see they're busy but must be very tiring. Mike was telling me they were playing at the Elgin club on Thursday night as part of a six piece band. He said that they really enjoyed themselves they got the opportunity to play the good old favourites they like. I had a phone call from someone that was there who was singing their praises saying how much he'd enjoyed them, so you never know we might persuade them to do a spot in the club for us.

It was the second visit to the club for Lemon Grass. They proved to be so popular when they were last with us, just over a year ago, that they were voted runners-up for our Band of the Year Award. Judging by their performance on Friday night and by the reception they received from the members they are definitely in with a chance next year again. They sang country as it should be sung - their harmonies are amazing all three have different voices which mean they can deliver a very varied programme.

Founder member of the band Malcolm Mason and daughter Caroline travelled all the way from Cumbria to be with us, along with Colin Gibson from Echlefechan who is an ex-member of the Diesel Cowboys. Malcolm has a great stage presence and seems a very laid back type of guy, he has a great country voice which lends itself to George Strait and Randy Travis numbers. Colin is a mean steel player and can sing Vince Gill songs as good as Vince can - I think I said this last time but his version of *IF YOU EVER* was tremendous.

Young Caroline has a great voice and the looks to go with it, she can sing anything from the very up to date stuff from the divas in country like Deena Carter and the Dixie Chicks, but is equally as good at belting out Patsy Cline classics. I can see why they are one of the most popular bands on the British country music scene - they are nice people and we were delighted that they agreed to travel the distance to play for us. A refreshing change to hear an all country programme professionally delivered.

Colin said how much he enjoyed the programmes featuring our festival on the TV and how they can't wait to be part of the next one. They had a hard job getting off the stage - everyone kept shouting for more. They didn't seem to mind despite heading for the Muir of Ord to stay with friends as they were playing Forres on Saturday night.

Sandy Gordon as you may remember was away last month at a Country Weekend in the Menzies Hotel in Aberdeen. He had a good time said the bands all did a good job. Gary Gamble got the Band of the Weekend Award. John Mutch who is one of the weekend organisers was in the club on Friday they thought it was a great success and were very pleased with the way things went he said that they were already fully booked for next year.

I told you a few months back that Susan McCann's radio show had been axed, well as from the 23rd November she will be presenting 2x 1 hour shows daily called The Country and Irish Collection. To hear these programmes you need to log on to www.susanmccann.com on the computer or mobile phone and you can listen to the show when it suits, I haven't been able to get a chance to listen yet.

I watched the CMA awards when they were on some obscure TV channel a couple of weeks ago, but can't say I really enjoyed it although they were what I was expecting. Most of it was like a pop concert - all young high-energy stuff and with no stretch of the imagination could it be classed as country. It doesn't help that because we have no CMT we can't keep up with all the new artists and releases. It came as no surprise that Taylor Swift swept the boards winning nearly everything, and Brad Paisley was a close second receiving all the male awards.

The only good old timer who was in with a chance was George Strait - he was nominated for entertainer of the year and also Male Vocalist, unfortunately he didn't win anything. I couldn't see any one like Alan Jackson in the audience - there were a lot of new faces there.

Speaking of George Strait he is a great entertainer, and aside from seeing Alan Jackson again he is the other country star I would love to see perform live. We recently watched a DVD recorded in Las Vegas when he was recently awarded the title of Artist of the Decade - a title which has been worn previously by stars such as Loretta Lynn and Garth Brooks. It was a great show and I enjoyed every minute of it. There were plenty of well known faces there that night including Martina McBride, Reba Macintyre, Brooks & Dunn, Alan Jackson, who all played tribute to George by singing his songs, and of course Garth presented George with the award.

I notice that Gene Watson has just released a new CD entitled *A TASTE OF THE TRUTH* and it's reviewed as being one of his best in years. He has chosen the songs personally and that, along with his country voice as good as ever at 65, makes it stand out. Maybe one for the Christmas stocking!! Alan Jackson has a new one out also, but I think it's released on the Cracker Barrel label and not out for import as yet.

I read that LeAnn Rimes has filed for divorce from husband of seven years - she adds that the decision was amicable and they remain friends.

I saw a photo in a magazine which was taken at the 90th birthday bash for Kitty Wells. I didn't think she was that old but I suppose it was in the early 50's when she had her big hit with *IT WASN'T GOD WHO MADE HONKY TONK ANGELS*. They had a great night - her husband of 72 years was there with her and he is aged 95! They were joined by other stars such as Leona Williams, Gail Davies, & Jean Shepherd.

If anyone is in Aberdeen on Sunday 13th then why not get along to the Beach Ballroom when the 2nd Boot Scootin Ball will take place between 3pm and 11.30pm. This is a charity event for CLAN and, aside from some good local bands, there are games, dancers, casino tables, and stovies on sale. Tickets can be bought from Dave on 07841500801, so take a break from Christmas shopping and go along and support a good cause.

Well I think that's about all for now if you want the news of all the club nights coming up in the next few months I have drawn up a press release which I will post on the web-site for your information. And seriously folks if you want tickets for any of these shows ticket demands will be high so please let us know if you want to come along or you may be disappointed. Remember only three weeks to our Christmas shows if you want to come along for your Christmas party night out why not join us on Saturday 19th - we will reserve tables for party bookings.

I don't think I will find the time to write another newsletter before the start of the New Year - things are hectic with festival organising and advertising. So I hope you have a nice Christmas and New Year and we look forward to seeing you all in 2010.

Until next time,

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC