



# Northern Nashville Country Music Club

## February 2010 Newsletter

Seems a bit stupid now that we are fast approaching February to be wishing you all a happy healthy 2010, where does time go.

We definitely pulled a cracker for our finale of the year - something a little bit different which I am pleased to say was a complete success. We had a full house and a real party atmosphere both nights.

We knew what to expect from our local band Manson Grant and the Dynamos and they certainly didn't disappoint us. Throughout the night we got a cross section of music - everything from country - old and new, 60's, and of course Christmas Carols.

Our other local band Slange Ava have made a big name for themselves in the short time they have been together - they went down a storm had the dance floor heaving. They just get better every time I hear the.

Arthur Pottinger started singing locally back in the 50's - he took things in his stride and played some golden oldies alongside tracks from his recently recorded album of Hank Snow numbers. He thoroughly enjoyed himself and met up with people he hadn't seen for ages.

I can't remember the last time I heard our next local girl sing, but it was certainly before she was called Nancy Foggo. Poor Nancy was a bit uptight and nervous as she seldom performs nowadays; she had no need to be worried the crowd loved her and put her at ease right away. Nancy turned the clock back for a lot of people, and of course we all joined in when she sang her big hits from many moons ago *Wedding Bells & You Win Again*.

Aside from nostalgia we also had something new - a guest spot from Brandon Macphee, a twelve year old who has an exceptional talent for playing the button key accordion. Talk about oozing with confidence and laid back with it - even during the cabaret the dancers couldn't keep still, they were up doing military two steps etc. A young man with a promising future ahead of him.

I don't think anyone in the hall was disappointed; there was something for everyone also proving what a wealth of talent we have in Caithness. Feedback was positive, now could we repeat it again? Let us know what you think.

The year certainly didn't start the way we had planned when, like many other clubs, we were told that Georgette Jones had let us down and was forced to pull out of her tour dates in Scotland and England. We were sympathetic hearing of Georgette's plight on arrival in our country, when immigration prevented her from performing due to her paperwork not meeting the required standard.

Davie our band secretary spoke to Jamie Lennon, Georgette's manager offering to arrange a new work permit ensuring everything was in order allowing Georgette to go ahead with her tour, to be told that this was 'being taken care off' by an Irish agent. It subsequently came to light that Georgette was going ahead with her Irish tour, and had in fact committed herself to further dates which coincided with times she should be playing here.

This clearly caused us distress and we tried on numerous occasions by e-mail and telephone to contact both Georgette and Jamie requesting an explanation, however they have failed to respond. It was made clear that, unless we received a press release informing us why this mess was allowed to happen, we would have no alternative but to go with our instinct and assume that the Irish agent had arranged the required paperwork on the understanding Georgette only played his gigs, or was the paperwork ever the issue??? One wonders.

We are not fortunate enough to have the same financial backing and support as large companies like J.W. Promotions, we give up large chunks of our own time to try and keep country music alive so naturally feel disappointed and let down. I can't understand why Georgette has allowed her halo to slip like this - she will find it very difficult to get a chance to establish herself here in the future. Instead of earning the title Princess of Country Music it will be No Show Jones the Second – what a shame.

However our show went ahead, and despite the weather conditions also being against we had a great night. Both bands had to travel - Salt Creek made the long trip from Birmingham, and Mustang from Elgin - slightly closer, but I'm sure the road conditions wasn't that good for either, so we were grateful and delighted they both made it here safely.

Mustang's line up included some well known musicians whom we have seen on the stage with different bands in the past, so yes a lot of talent including steel player Alan Thompson - he didn't give us a song as he was full of the cold and not feeling that great, so we'll let him off! However the rest were all on top form and looked as if they were enjoying themselves as much as we were. It was a refreshing change to hear something different in their repertoire - great country songs that we hadn't heard for a while. Judging by the feedback at the end of the night they will be back again before long.

Couldn't help feeling sorry for Salt Creek they were also badly let down by Georgette. Pat had done a lot of work arranging the tour on behalf of her management and were also all geared up to provide the backing. They decided to go ahead and honour their commitments, with Pat's wife Caroline on lead vocals they put on a great show.

Caroline has a strong powerful voice and can certainly belt out a ballad. She included some of Tammy Wynette's well known hits alongside some real old standards like *Satin Sheets*, before bringing it right up to date by adding Martina McBride numbers. A very versatile band; we heard all kinds of music including *Mustang Sally* with backing vocals provided by Nashville's Three Degrees namely Joanne, Bettine and myself (can't even use the excuse that I was drinking because I was dead sober). However all you punters who were taking photos and recording it on their phones better remember that revenge is sweet - Darryn -!!! Salt Creek were staying overnight so they managed to chill out have a few drinks, mingle and blether to the crowd - a very nice bunch of guys and girl! Again the members enjoyed their part of the show and we did hear comments like 'We had a great night without Georgette' which I know made Pat feel a whole lot better.

Our next night will be our AGM which will be in the Legion on February 19<sup>th</sup>. Following that Johnnie Quinn will be playing in the lounge and Beatrice is laying on sausage rolls etc. I can't remember the last time I heard Johnnie play but guaranteed he will be as good as he always was, and I am quite sure he will sing some of the numbers which will take us all back a bit. So I think a night not to be missed.

Our February show is out by a week so will not take place until the 5<sup>th</sup> March when we will have Heather Myles with us as part of her British and European tour. Heather, as most of you will know, was part of last years Festival where she went down very well and proved what an outstanding singer songwriter she is. She spent years playing the honky tonk circuit and opening for several of country's biggest names such as Merle Haggard and Dwight Yoakam, before finding stardom in her own right.

Heather demonstrates what country fans are looking for - she gets straight to the nuts and bolts of her songs; no sweet or glossy sentiments here. She has recently released a CD called *In The Wind* with nine of the twelve tracks written by Heather herself. It's receiving rave reviews saying: it combines modern style with a good grip on the reins of the past. Heather will be supported by another very popular band from the east coast Robbie and The Brothers - they'll have you all on your feet dancing in no time at all.

Speaking of CD's Lorrie Morning has a new one out titled *A Moment In Time* which is also getting good write ups. It is a recording of country standards and she recorded it the old fashioned way - with musicians in the studio and no overdubs. It's worked well but it obviously helped by the fact that Lorrie has a pure country voice.

Lorrie duets with Tracey Lawrence for the Conway and Loretta hit *After The Fire Has Gone*, and with Raul Malo on the Freddie Hart classic *Easy Lovin*, along with hits such as *Borrowed Angel & Lovin on Back Streets*, making this an album worth adding to your collection.

I was reading in one of the country music mags that Gail Davies along with Jeff Walker recently received an award as Country Music Ambassadors. Gail was one of the stars of our first Festival and has enjoyed a career as a successful music producer and artist, so a very well deserved award.

Sadly it has now been confirmed that after 23 years the Craig Tara festival in Ayr has come to an end, mostly due to the many complaints regarding the poor standard and cleanliness of the accommodation, which did not improve despite promises. However I am sure Roy will be look for another suitable venue - what a shame after all the hard work which has gone into holding the event year after year.

The Festival is very quickly creeping up on us so remember to get your tickets booked if you haven't already done so. BBC ALBA have confirmed that they will be back this year again to film the event due to the very positive feedback and success of last years TV programmes which they will be repeating some time in April.

Well I think that's it about it for now

Until next time,

Keep it Country

*Christine*

Christine Gray  
Chairperson NNCMC