



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

February 2015 Newsletter

I am sure by now you have forgotten about Christmas and New Year and settled back down into normal routine. January flew past and here we are into February and apart from the terrible gales which left some people without power for days on end we haven't done too badly weather wise.

We went to the Christmas Eve dance in the Legion, quite a poor crowd really which was a shame Manson Grant & the Dynamos were playing. We thoroughly enjoyed the music the band covered all types of music country old and new, Scottish section featuring Brandon on accordion also a selection of Christmas numbers to get us in the Christmas spirit.

On Sunday 28th we were invited by Robert to be part of an audience whilst the band recorded and filmed for a programme to be shown on Irish T.V. I spoke to Robert the other day but he hadn't as yet had any confirmation as to when it would be shown. Will keep my eye on the channel schedule see if we can see anything about it, should be good. It featured mainly Brandon playing a Scottish spot along with some great country numbers - we also got to hear Keith singing his version of Farewell Party... brilliant.

Speaking about Manson Grant & The Dynamos they have a busy few months coming up on Saturday 28th Feb they are taking The Brandon McPhee Show to Eden Court where again Brandon will showcase both his talents. He will be supported by his Scottish Dance Band and also his Country Band who along with Robert, Manson & Keith will be Davy Holland undoubtedly one of the U.K.'s finest steel players, and Crawford Bell on acoustic, trumpet and harmonies (same band they will be bringing with them to the Festival) I know that the tickets were selling very very quickly best check with the Box Office to see if there's any left. On the 27th, 28th & 29th March they are holding residential weekend in Carrbridge I think it's going to be mostly Scottish Music with a hint of country Paula Macaskill amongst others will be joining them if you are interested Robert has details of that - and then of course our festival the following weekend.

Christmas was fine two days spent with family eating too much don't think I overdid the drinking though, then for New Year we were in Edinburgh no country music but had a great time- something different - We didn't go to the street party but was part of the torchlight procession the night before, went to the Winter Wonderland in Princess Street Gardens, Sheraton Hotel for New Year's Dinner, the pantomime, and in between ate drank and socialised.

Since coming home it's been all systems go trying to get on top of Festival work as Easter will be here before we know it. At the moment things are ticking along with no major hiccups- hope I didn't tempt fate.

It seems ages since we had our Christmas shows so were ready for a night out, our January shows are always a hit or a miss and I think this one was certainly a 'hit' despite lots of our regulars giving it a 'miss'.

At the beginning of the week Nigel phoned to say that George Malcolm was unwell so unable to play on Friday night however it was all sorted as Colin McFeat had agreed to step in and cover lead vocals. Earlier in the week the forecasters had predicted bad

weather and lots of snow luckily it didn't come although a bit stormy our support act Western Rhythm managed to get up from Gallashiels without any bother. It's a tedious trip at the best of times without running into bad weather the boys sleep in the van and away again first thing in the morning.

Ivan and John are certainly one of the busiest and most popular duos on the circuit and they lived up to that on Friday night by providing a great nights entertainment. Both are very talented, versatile and experienced musicians Ivan played steel, sax and guitar whilst John's on keyboards, lead vocals and accordion. The boys entertained with a cross section of music old country classics, some Scottish tunes which went down well with some of the dancers and then brought it up to date with new country songs. They are two really nice guys they enjoy the crack and there's always great banter between the pair on stage this time again they went down well with the crowd and will be back again.



As I said earlier we had a change of band from The Duke Boys to Nashville Union which I suppose basically meant that Colin replaced George as lead singer joining Nigel, Alasdair & Johny.

Colin confessed to being nervous but that certainly didn't come across he looked very comfortable on stage back where he belonged. Everyone just loved hearing some of those old Silver songs sung as only Colin can, he certainly has a very distinctive voice.

But the whole selection of numbers they delivered over the course of the night was enjoyed by everyone the repertoire just a wee bit different songs not often heard a fine change. The boys seemed as if they were all enjoying themselves and sang their own favourite songs a real tonic to lift the January blues all in all a great night of live country music.

Although a bit low in numbers to begin with as the night went on folk wandered in some having been to Burns Suppers earlier so we had enough here to create an atmosphere and both bands played to the crowd keeping them on the floor, Sandy certainly tried to keep the party going he wasn't letting Nashville Union off the stage easy I think Colin thought we had extended our hours the band would have been wanting an extra fee if we didn't pull the plug - on Sandy!



February and we have our A.G.M. in the Royal British legion on Saturday February 14TH at 7.30pm a good turn out from the members would be fine your opportunity to tell us what you would like us to do for your club.

Then our show at the end of the month February 27th looks like being a winner two first timers to NNCCM they are both delighted to be playing for us they have heard what a great club we have so don't let them down come along and have a great night.

Touchwood John and Catherine duo from around the Falkirk area(I think they're husband and wife) have only been around since last year but are making a name for themselves around the clubs.

Justin McGurk & the Boogiemens from Co. Tyrone have been waiting a long time to come to Scotland I spoke to him at one of the first Country Fest weekends in Letterkenny and thought he was brilliant so it's taken a wee while but I am sure it will be worth it. As his latest single says Get The Party Started he certainly will you've been invited so don't miss it.

Since last time country music lost one of its old timers Little Jimmy Dickens. He turned 94 on December 19th performing at the Opry the following night as part of his birthday celebrations sadly he suffered a stroke on Christmas day then died following a cardiac arrest on the 2nd January. Jimmy began his music career in 1930, he became a member of The Grand Ole Opry in 1948 and until his death was the oldest living member, in 1983 he was inducted into the Hall of Fame. The man who stood at 4ft 11ins was a very funny guy with a great sense of humour he is probably best known for his rhinestone outfits and novelty songs including May the Bird Of Paradise Fly Up Your Nose which gained him chart success. You often see him making guest appearances in country videos including recent ones by Brad Paisley they had a very close relationship and during his teenage years Brad opened several shows for him.

However to put things into perspective more tragic that that was the very sudden death on January 12th of Barney, drummer with the Stephen Smyth band, aged only 51. Barney or Brian Mullen was a larger than life character a great drummer but more importantly a great guy in the past he has played drums for Michael English and Dominic Kirwan. I didn't know him very well spent some time with him recently at the festival last year and again in August in the club however everyone in the music business who knew Barney had nothing but respect for him.

A bit of good news now Robert Mizzell and wife Adele had a baby girl on the 16th January - Maisey Mary weighed in at 9lbs 15ozs and is doing very well now settling in at home, Roberts daughter Amy from a previous relationship turned 21 the same week lots to celebrate that week then in the Mizzell household.

Ally got the latest Garth Brooks offering Man Against Machine for Christmas I have only listened to it a couple of times and still not sure, I wasn't struck on the title track I did enjoy some of the others numbers in particular She's Tired of Boys (on it he's joined by better half Trisha Yearwood on vocals) and also Tacoma. There are certainly traces of the old Brooks in there but not really my style of country whilst on the other hand the new album by wife Trisha appeals to me. It's called Prize Fighter : Hit After Hit which features hits from her early days along with new material I haven't actually heard it but think it would be a good listen of course she has included She's In love With the Boy & XXX'S And OOO'S. it's been a long while since Trisha's last release but she has been busy in other areas she writes cook books and hosts a cookery programme.

At the moment I am enjoying a Derailers album called Under The Influence of Buck released back in 2007 it's 12 tracks are all numbers made famous by Buck Owens. I suppose there's nothing very different on it but since I'm a fan of Buck's music I'm enjoying their version and listening to the golden oldies like Together Again & Cryin Time memories of the good old days. On many numbers the vocals recreate Buck's twang hope they throw some of them in during their festival sections?

The other night I got round to reading the latest edition of Country Music People and as they do each year they invite their contributors and industry guests to choose their favourite album release of the year. Some came as no surprise and amongst the most popular were Gene Watson; My Heroes Have Always Been Country, Working Man's Poet; a tribute to Merle Haggard by Various Artistes, Lee Ann Womack ; The Way I'm Livin, George Strait; Cowboy Rides Away , the winning album was Marty Stuart; Saturday Night/Sunday Morning, delighted to see Jade Jacks' album Off The Record was close runner up also Kimberly Murray's; A world Away did very well good to see Jerry Kilgore get a mention with Those Seven Years.

Well I think that's about it for now got loads of Festival work to do... speaking of that we have decided to extend our Early Bird Ticket offer for another two weeks up until February 14th so if your loved one is a country fan and you haven't bought them anything why not get Festival tickets - single show ones are also available next week.

Until next time

Keep It Country

Christine