



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

July 2009 Newsletter

Another show passed and another beautiful sunny weekend - long may this warm weather continue. We appear to be having the best of it at the minute which is a pleasant change for us.

Friday night was a fairly quiet night in comparison to the last two, June show is always a bad one for us number wise so it came as no surprise. The glorious weather didn't help as people with caravans headed off for the weekend, also not forgetting the Harbour Fest in Wick, Highland Show and various functions. The lack of numbers makes the dance floor less busy therefore the atmosphere is not the same, however we all had a good time and that's all that matters.

Entertainment was provided by two Scottish bands - Nebraska fronted by Bill Alexander, along with Ernie Whiteoak, and a bass player called Paul who was making his first visit to the club. Bill and Nebraska were the first band to ever play in the NNCCMC all these years ago, and they played as part of our 20th anniversary show. They were booked to play last year but were forced to call off due to Bill breaking his arm.

Our other band was Broken Wing - Ian, Mike and Mikie are no strangers to us and have made numerous appearances in the club, and have also been part of our festival. The trio from Moray also had to cancel their last booking due to Mike being ill, so it was great to have them back with us again and Mike looking well.

The bands did a great job - they both played the same type of material - predominantly covers of country greats which some of the members thought made a similarity between the two.

Broken Wing will be with us again next month as they will be backing our star of the show Elaine Boyle not to be confused with Susan Boyle from Britain's Got Talent! Elaine is that very talented young singer from Donegal who scored a hit with you all when she was here last time as part of the Gary Gamble show. Elaine has a beautiful singing voice - she has made a name for herself in Ireland, and more recently over here when she toured as part of The Pride of Ireland show and The Ladies Of Country Show alongside Billie Jo Spears and Stella Parton, she will be on tour very soon again with Dominic Kirwan. She has released her first album *We Should Be Together*, which is a collection of popular country hits by country singers such as Tanya Tucker, Reba & Lorrie Morgan, she has the kind of voice that certainly does justice to Patsy Cline numbers.

Along with Elaine we have the Norman Borland Duo. I am not sure if he has played in the club before, but he has, until recently, played as one half of the of duo Toe The Line, and before that as part of The Steve James Band. In 2007 Norman released his first album entitled *Cross Country* - it was launched during the 4th Country Music Extravaganza in Letterkenny alongside Irish artists including Louise Morrissey, Mike Denver and Robert Mizzell. His second release *One In A Million* followed the next year. Norman was part of this years Embo weekend and we have it on good authority that he put on an excellent show.

Unfortunately I will miss the show. Margaret, Kenny, Ally and myself are going to Belfast for the UTV Country Fest - remember last year it was held outdoors in Dungannon Park when it poured rain for most of the time! The weather didn't really dampen our spirits but this year they have decided to go for an indoor venue. It might not make for the same atmosphere but I am sure the crack will be good nevertheless, and we'll be dry so wont need the wellies with us! I will tell you all about it next time, but there are a host of stars taking part from the USA & Ireland. On the Monday following the festival we are travelling to Letterkenny to see Martina Macbride and Randy Travis in concert.

Not sure who will keep their eye on the committee in my absence - they have promised to behave but I just need someone to make sure Sandy lets the bands off stage at the end of the night! Luckily I did warn Mike last time that he might still be there when I get back!

Last month Triple C Club in Wick had Red Canyon booked to play however they failed to turn up, and when someone on the committee contacted Nicky he was sitting at home watching TV blissfully unaware he should have been in Wick. Thankfully Slange Ava dropped what they were doing and came to the rescue and I heard they had a most enjoyable night.

Speaking of Slange Ava I have been telling you about Keith's new CD featuring songs written by his dad Davie, well Keith is going to be speaking about the album on Stewart Fenwick's on line programme on Sunday afternoon. The programme takes place between 2.00pm and 5.00pm - hopefully Keith will be on about 4.00pm. You can hear the show and interview on www.celticmusicradio.net. Stewart recently reviewed the album for CMDS magazine and felt the sound had a distinct Manson Grant influence, and added that Keith did a great job of singing the tracks and Dad should be very proud of him. The album is available from www.panrecord.co.uk or Tel 01955602646

I was reading that Bear Family Records have just released two boxed set albums of George Jones recordings. *Walk Through This World With Me* features songs made between 1965 and 1967, and *Good Year For The Roses* numbers between 1967 and 1971. These recordings have been out of circulation for many years and some never issued in full. A 48-page booklet containing photos and giving background details comes with it. George recently quoted that it now takes an artist 2-3 days to record a song and he could record a whole album in three hours - bet not many of today's artists will still be as popular almost 50 years down the line!

I thought all my dreams had come true when I heard that my favourite country star Alan Jackson was coming across the Atlantic to do some concerts. He is appearing in August however only in Denmark, Norway & Sweden - pity he couldn't have stopped off here en route.

Was watching some bits of the recent CMT music awards on the web and noticed that Taylor Swift, Brad Paisley, Sugarland, and Rascal Flatts were the predominant winners in most categories.

Well I think that's about the news for this time, was getting on great when the thunder and lightning was on, and when the computer went down at one point the part I hadn't saved disappeared. I kind of lost the thread of it then and, after much oathing, I started again, so please don't be too hard on me if there are lots of mistakes!

Until next time

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC

PS: Well I have had a right disaster - when I tried to connect to the internet after the storm finished I got nowhere, thought it was the after effects and it would resolve itself. Discovered later that the lightning had struck the side of the house (guy up the road had seen it) and damaged our aerial and cables so we had no TV or Freeview either.

It turned out that the computer modem had been fried so only got a replacement today - lucky we had everything surge protected or we might have lost the computer and appliances too. No wonder I was screaming like a banshee but of course I was told to stop being a drama queen! Mind you he did get a fright during one almighty bang that must have been when it hit. Anyway I can only apologise for the delay in getting this on the web and of course the out of date news so better stop rambling on and get it done.