



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

July 2015 Newsletter

Since I've hardly been at home recently I think this newsletter will be pretty brief I just haven't been around or had the time to gather news.

The weekend following our last club night we went to Black Rock caravan site in Evanton along with Bettine & Edwin, Lisa, Andrew and the bairns we had a fine time. Went on forest walks visited the Black Isle & Lairg and of course ate plenty, managed to get through a few bottles of wine, and set the world to rights with some fellow country music fans from Wick.

Home on Monday a quick turnaround unpack and repack before we headed to Inverness on Wednesday where we went to Eden Court to see the comedy production Yer Granny starring Rab C amongst other well-known Scottish performers: a great laugh.

The following morning and a scorcher we travelled to Preston stopping for a few hours in Gretna Green on route sitting in the sun watching the weddings couldn't believe how many there were one out and the next one in. On the road again in the morning we headed first to Manchester where we did the Coronation Street tour which we really enjoyed: we didn't get to sample Betty's hot pot but we got to pour a pint in the Rovers Return.

Back in the car and a long slow nose to tail trip down the M6 the journey taking 2 hours longer than we expected; no point in moaning just thankful that we don't have to put up with traffic like that on a daily basis. Our destination was Bromsgrove a beautiful little town south of Birmingham where we were attending our friends Elaine & Barry's daughter's wedding on the Saturday. We had a great time - the wedding was lovely everyone chilled and laid back just spot on so after a very enjoyable weekend with some old friends and lots of new ones we headed north.

Our first stop was Chester a beautiful city where we did all the tourist things then on to Liverpool for a hectic couple of days trying to see and do as much as we could. I was really impressed with the city much cleaner than I expected clearly a bit of money has been spent developing it; very tourist friendly our hotel prime location just off the Docklands close to all attractions. A very nostalgic visit going round everything related to the 60's and of course the Beatles their museum was brilliant spent a good couple of hours wandering around soaking up the atmosphere, the music and the memorabilia. Went on A Magical Mystery Tour stopping at places like Strawberry Fields, Penny Lane, the church where Eleanor Rigby is buried saw where the Fab 4 lived and went to school. Naturally we spent a couple of nights in the Cavern where we heard some great music (none of it country) and naturally we had to take Ferry Cross the Mersey.



Our final part of our trip was up to Barry & Elaine's in Barrow another lovely weekend spending time with them, we went round the Lakes on Saturday beautiful sitting at the edge of Lake Windermere with our drinks, and the weather stayed good enough for us to have a barbeque on the Sunday.

Headed back to reality on Tuesday morning weather not very much improved from the time we left took over Bettine's child minding duties as she's away living the good life in South Korea and Vietnam.

Thought everything was on track for our Friday night show when at the last minute we discovered that Colin has been having voice problems and subsequently been told to rest. I know that like myself you were looking forward to seeing Smokin' Guns our runners up for Scottish Band of the Year 2014 and in particular Colin with his great country voice and wicked sense of humour. Thankfully Steve James said he was still available and would bring along couple of his band members so we knew we would still get a good night's entertainment with Steve and Double Trouble.

Sorted! Or so we thought until I was just getting ready to go out the door on Friday night when Steve phoned to say that their van had broken down and they had to hire one so were only at Invergordon. Again we got round it Double Trouble were very helpful saying they would play on until Steve arrived and we then devised an alternative programme.



Drew & Terry or Double Trouble certainly put on a crowd pleasing show: they loved them; the guys are enthusiastic in what they do and work hard ensuring the crowd get what they want. They cover all types of music from traditional country, middle of the road with the odd Irish tune thrown in making sure they keep the dance floor busy and they certainly succeeded during both spots.

Drew has many years experience playing in bands including the Duke Boys (hence the banter between himself and George Malcolm) then going out solo before being joined by son Terry who we first saw as a shy young man but clearly time flies he told me he was getting married next year.

Apart from being with us as part of Smokin' Guns last year, Steve James has played in the club with his own band and also Arizona Flame. This time he brought along his son and mate Billy; all three very talented musicians and singers and together they gave us a great country spot offering something a little bit out of the norm. We heard some numbers that were just a wee bit different; they added their own style to more familiar numbers a refreshing change.

Both bands enjoyed their night and had a good time great to see Trouble joining Steve and the boys on stage for the final few numbers – yes a good night was had by all –



Sandy our compere left us for a while to attend a family party in Skinandis I think he realised he was a bit past that scene as it wasn't long before he was back, however under duress Alan deputised very well for him on the mike.

Bad luck has once again struck singing song writing couple Joey & Rory who were with us at our festival a few years back. You may remember that shortly after having their much loved and wanted little girl Indy born with Down 's syndrome Joey was treated for cervical cancer. Sadly her cancer has returned and is now in her colon she is being treated in a cancer centre in Chicago where she will be having surgery this week. We wish Joey all the best she is a beautiful person and will be relying on her faith to help them all through this time.

I noticed that Red Jenkins from Sweden has released a new 17 duet track album called Stone Country. Amongst others he sings with Leona Williams, Tony Booth, Amber Digby, Billy Yates, Becky Hobs & Ron Williams all artistes who have played for us at past festivals, fiddle music provided by Bobby Flores and Jake Hooker on bass. Sounds like a good album it's all original tracks containing the usual round of drinkin / heart breakin / cheatin country songs. I noticed that he duets with someone called Robin Young don't think it's our Robin; if it is he kept that pretty quiet.

Talking about CD 's have you checked out the latest releases from our Festival compere and Duke Boys lead singer George Malcolm, both albums were recorded by George himself at home in his spare room. The album entitled INSPIRATION contains many tracks written by himself some from his original Duke Boys days including Broken Hearts and Broken Dreams & Country Music on it he has added the sax and other instruments. The cover features some family members who he says were his inspiration, amongst them is of course Aunty Jessie who has entertained us in the past with her music hall songs and gags. The other CD is called A MAN THIS LONLEY and is country covers he has included Heaven in My Woman's Eyes, Pop A Top also tracks from Buck Owens & George Jones.

Speaking about Pop A Top leads me on to Jim Ed Brown who was one of the inductees into The Country Music Hall Of Fame this year. I had just read Stewart Fenwick article about him in this month's CMDS mag when I heard he had passed away on the 11TH June. Jim's career goes back to the fifties when he first appeared on the charts as a family band then going on to play solo joining the Opry in 63 and enjoying time as a radio and T.V. presenter. Jim who was diagnosed with cancer last year had just released a new album his first for years on it he features some songs he has liked for years and only now had the chance to record. Two weeks before his death Jim was inducted into the Hall of Fame in a special ceremony held in hospital. Vince Gill played at his funeral along with Craig Morgan who sang a tearful Amazing Grace since then Billy Yates & Jeannie Seeley have performed as part of a tribute concert to him in the Blue Bird Café.

Well I think that's about it for now, a wee update on Dennis our committee member who's poorly at the moment he is still waiting for more test results before they decide on the next part of his treatment, he's still his cheery self I'm pleased to say.

Until next time

Keep It Country

Christine