



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

June 2010 Newsletter

After last months epic newsletter this one will be brief in comparison.

We had our usual monthly show last Friday night, both bands were from Scotland, regulars to the Club and Festival - Nickels and Dimes and from around the Aberdeenshire area All Jacked Up.

Nickels and Dimes need no introduction but I'm never quite sure how to introduce them! We say they are local, as Alistair and Nigel live here, however Pete is from Edinburgh, George from Forres and Billy from Glasgow. Pete has a very distinctive voice made for singing country music and they gave us another fine performance of their range and style, which varies from stone country numbers like Luchenbach Texas to a more rockabilly edge with songs like Rockabilly Rebel. The guys will be back in the club again for our show at the end of July.

All Jacked Up are a six piece country band with a difference - they provide a blend of traditional and modern country music. Some of the band were familiar to us they have been in the club under the name Tennessee River. Lead vocals are still provided by Louise who covers numbers by all the great ladies of country music from Tammy Wynette to Martina McBride. David, also a member of Tennessee River, has just recently rejoined the band as singer and rhythm guitar, while Brian has many years of experience in the music business. Together with Louise they provide great harmonies. Brian the drummer and band manager, is also a founder member of Tennessee River while the new guys in the band are George on lead guitar and Jim on pedal steel. Caroline the other female vocalist and bass player has also returned to the band, however she was unavailable on Friday so Neil Boyd from Alabama joined the band on stage. Neil is an old friend of the band and plays with them when he is on holiday in this country.

We didn't have such a big crowd as usual however the members present all enjoyed their night. We welcomed some first time visitors to the club , John and Mitch Bowers travelled all the way from Devon where they run the Sundowner Club in Tapperton - they created a bit of interest with their two stepping and partner dancing - great to watch.

Also joining us were Margaret and Joe Brown from Rutherglen who are members of The Grand Ole Opry. I noticed that Margaret had won the competition run by CMDS for naming the bands on the cover of the last issue - looks like Margaret knows her country music!

They are big fans of Nickels and Dimes and I think both couples enjoyed their night and will come back and see us sometime soon.

I'm not sure what it is about Ireland and engagements, but Kay and Gordon returned from the Manson Grant trip to Letterkenny sporting a big diamond. Another couple who got together through country music, they met three years ago during a Manson grant holiday to Benidorm. I bet Gordon never expected to be settling down in Thurso when he went on the trip! I am delighted for them both and wish them all the best for the future. They are off to Canada on holiday soon and have managed to get tickets to see Alan Jackson, lucky devils.

Next month sees the return of Bill Alexander, and we also welcome back Norman Borland. Norman was with us last year as part of a duo but this time he is touring with a four-piece band that called The Double K Country Band. I didn't hear Norman last time he was here so something new for me.

The other news from the Club was the long awaited result of the Band of the Year Award and we have new first time winners this year.

The results were very close there were only a few votes between the top three acts. Runners up were Brendan Quinn and Joe Moore (both previous winners) and our own Manson Grant came next, but in first place are Thomas Maguire and Fhiona Ennis. Well done to them - we see them back with us in October.

I think I also mentioned that we were going to present an award for the top local band in the memory of our committee member Sandy Swanson who died last year, well there were no doubts over this one - Slange Ava came first with a clear majority, so delighted for them also.

We held our Festival AGM last week for the 2009 Festival, so it took us all a while to remember that far back. We appointed our committee last time for three years so we didn't have that to do, but we did take Bettine on board as a director since she does such a good job of selling our tickets, otherwise there are no changes. We as a committee agreed to continue with a Festival for next year but we will seriously have to look at our financial situation before we commit any further. Hopefully we can have the summer to get on with the jobs around the house which were otherwise neglected, before we get too busy with next years' Festival.

I heard that Gerry Ford has now settled down to life in Australia. Their departure was delayed due to the volcanic ash but they got their in the end. Let's hope he and Joan have a long happy life out there with their family.

I am listening to the Stewart Fenwick show on www.celticradio.net at the moment. He used to be on later in the day but his programme goes out on line now from 12.00 - 2.00 on Sundays and is well worth a listen to, he plays some great country music.

Another person who keeps country music alive in these parts is Helen Macpherson from MFR. Helen, who has a great country programme, is playing the interviews recorded at the Festival over the next couple of weeks, Rick Trevino was this week, and Amber Digby then Leona Williams over the next two weeks. Helen's programme goes out on Wednesday nights between 8.00 and 10.00 if you can't tune into the radio station then you can catch it on line.

Have you been missing out on your TV fix of country music these days? I was blaming the machine for not recording them for me, but lo and behold Rural Country has been taken off the air! However all is not lost, some of the country programmes are coming back on the Horse and Country Channel which is no. 280. I'm not quite sure of all the details yet - it's due to start on Monday 14th in the evening, but the rest of the week it will be on for six hours during the day and will include Tru Country and the Marty Stuart and Family Reunion Show. Don't know about Hot Country - I know it gets a lot of bad publicity but as well as keeping us up to date of what is happening in America it also kept us up to date on the Irish music scene - maybe some other channel will pick it up so will keep a look out.

I notice that Robert Mizzell has released a new album called REDNECK MAN. The 15 tracks are covers of American Hits - some easily recognisable but others are not so familiar. The reviews say that Robert along with Glasgow singer Lisa McHugh do a great version of the Randy Travis / Carrie Underwood hit I TOLD YOU SO - a must for all of Robert's fans.

Also reviewed this month is the latest release from Thomas and Fhiona, and a new album by the ever popular Scottish duo Jolene and Barry - a good mix of popular covers.

The big news over the last few weeks is the devastation which happened in Nashville due to the results of a storm which saw three months rain falling in 24 hours and the Cumberland River busting its banks. The south side was most badly hit, 20 people lost their lives and thousands are left homeless.

The Grand Ole Opry found itself with water higher than the stage luckily most of the memorabilia can be saved and the rest repaired. Until such time all performances will be held in the War Memorial Auditorium in Nashville. The Gaylord Opryland Hotel was under ten feet of water and will have to close for several weeks while Opry Mills shopping complex was also caught out by the overflowing river. Good news is that the CMA festival will still be going ahead and lots of country's big stars are holding fund raisers and benefit concerts to help with relief efforts. Maybe our weather isn't so bad after all.

Before I close I just want to wish Davie Mac and Zoe all the best for their wedding on the 19th. Davie is one of the country music presenters on Caithness FM and he and Zoe are regular at our shows. Hope all goes well and we'll see you at the dance.

Well I think that's it for this month.

Until next time,

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC

P.S. As promised I can now reveal that the Hot Country Programme is now back on Sky Channel 201 Showcase on Monday at 8.00pm, Tuesday at 3.00pm, Saturday at 2.00pm, and Sunday at 8.00pm