



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

June 2015 Newsletter

Hope your all enjoying our lovely weather!! It's been awful into June and a couple of days ago hailstones... totally unbelievable what on earths gone wrong with our climate? Fingers crossed that June will be better it'll soon be the longest day and then downhill all the way ---scary---

Thankfully Benidorm was lovely and sunny in fact it was particularly hot for that time of year, I did tell myself I shouldn't be moaning about being too warm when it was 35 degrees at 10.00am I should just enjoy. We had a good holiday our hotel was very nice, spotless clean we had a lovely room food spot on, in fact I couldn't find anything to moan about . Ally and myself actually felt quite young a rare occasion these days, most of the holidaymakers in the hotel were 'mature' but all friendly folk full of fun most had more stamina than us out all hours and up and away in the mornings. We found plenty to do entertainment on tap as quiet , loud or as close to the bone as you wanted, we didn't find as lot of country music we did find a Western Saloon which certainly looked the part but the first night we went in there was a Bay City Rollers tribute band and an Elvis convention on but all good fun. We then came across a pub with a duo called Country Roads playing but naturally they played mostly sing a long type of numbers to get the crowd going. Ally managed to tick another thing of his bucket list to see Benidorm's renowned Sticky Vicky (don't think he was too impressed.



Didn't take long for reality to kick back in once we came home on the Monday and then on the Saturday we were away again to the Hooley In The Highlands : this is an all day festival run by Liam & Lorraine and the Black Isle Country Music Club and held in the Spa Pavilion, Strathpeffer an excellent venue.

As we did last year we hired a mini bus (and driver) and 15 of us left Caithness at 8.30 am returning home at 3.00 am which was a bit of a trek but it was good to get home to our own beds and after a lie in I was fine in the morning. We had a great day good company, great country music plenty food and drink what more could you ask for.

Opening up the day not an easy thing to do was Kenny Watson a solo performer who by covering all styles of country managed to get the crowd warmed up : From the Aberdeen area Kenny has played as part of the Manson Grant weekends in Dyce and his other claim to fame is that he was the 'trucker' from last year's T.V. series The Harbour.

As he did at the festival Norman Borland went down a treat I noticed he had a slightly different line up to the band which included ex Duke Boys guitarist Johnny Forde. They got a great reception which was well deserved can't believe how easy Norman makes it look.

Broken Note, another popular outfit who were part of our weekend also had band changes and considering it was only the second time they had played together and sadly they had some sound problems they delivered a great set, good to see Mike looking so well and enjoying his music.



Adding the Irish influence a young man who has certainly kissed the Blarney Stone, Aiden Quinn with his band and of course the Queen of Country herself his mammy Philomena Begley. During their afternoon and evening spots they performed their own individual sets coming together to sing some duets. I thought Aiden put on a very good show he was certainly on form the best I'd seen him in a long time, his band also did very well one of them had a brilliant country voice treated us to a few numbers.

Philomena what can I say what you see is what you get she never changes its easy to see why after all these years she remains as popular as ever aside to treating us to some of her most requested hits she threw in a bit of banter and crack interacting with the crowd which they loved.

Unfortunately for us the Nathan Carter Show was in Wick the same Friday night as our club so we anticipated a quieter night, surprisingly enough it wasn't as bad as we thought we had a reasonable crowd and nice to see some visitors joining us we hope they had a good time. As expected it was mostly the women who went to Nathan so the men came to the club : I was going to say to keep the seats but I noticed some standing at the bar, and the wife's turned up after the concert. They all said it was a fantastic show which I'm sure it was Nathan was joined by Lisa Stanley & Nicky James both great artistes and Nathan himself is a natural entertainer offering something for all ages.

Back to our night opening up for us was Martha Murray & Country Cousins a band who were with us a year ago. They are something of a family concern as Martha is joined on stage by husband Mike on steel and the other three band members Bob, Willie & Michael are her cousins. Martha from Kemnay has been on the scene for over 40 years touring and playing mainly Scottish music with her parents from an early age. They performed a mainly country spot covering some good cover versions delivered in a very relaxed laid back style Martha was mostly lead vocals but the boys did their share also. The crowd enjoyed them and it looked like they had fun also, they were playing in the Legion on the Saturday night and by the Facebook photos courtesy of Caroline looked like they had a good one.



Our main act a young man from Co Fermanagh Sean Corrigan supported on stage by Broken Note who I mentioned earlier had a change to their line up gone are the familiar faces of Mikie & Ian now joining Mike, Ryan Petrie & Cy Sticks Mutch is Lennie Smith on guitar vocals & harmonies. Lennie has a long history in the business he has played with many bands including many moons ago The Country Jays before becoming a solo act. He says he is enjoying being part of a band again they did an excellent job of backing Sean.

Sean a super nice guy and brilliant singer who in my opinion doesn't get the recognition he deserves he has a genuine love of country music in particular American country growing up listening to artistes like George Jones, Merle Haggard & Charlie Pride certainly both his spots had a more country than Irish flavour to them . Sean treated us to numbers from his albums Hello Heart and One Of These Days and had us all in stitches doing impersonations of other Irish artistes such as Stephen Smyth, Mick Flavin & Jimmy Buckley hilarious he had them all down to a tee. He played a brilliant selection of music ensuring he had the crowd on the floor all night they loved him.



During the show I announced our Band of the Year Winners for 2014, no surprises really Johnny Brady came first, runner up with just one vote less was Stephen Smyth and a close third was Trevor Loughrey will have to work hard and dig deep in the finances to get that show organised. I did mention last month that Manson Grant & the Dynamos had come first for the Sandy Swanson Memorial Award for Scottish Band next month's band Smokin Guns were second and Robbie & the Brothers were third.

I told you last newsletter that our committee member Dennis had been admitted to hospital sadly things haven't gone too well for him, he has had a major operation to remove his large bowel with traces of cancer also in his liver and lung. He is recuperating from his surgery and is now waiting for test results to be told what the next step will be. Looks like he has a long road in front of him however he is very cheery and positive and certainly not lost his sense of humour.

The Triple C had Nicky James at their last club time they had a good night despite not having a great crowd next time they have John C King along with daughter Angie surely they will have a better turn out for that. I would have liked to have gone to that for old times' sake to hear John again but that's the weekend we are away in England at a wedding.

I was reading an article the other day where it gave you the top twenty first wedding dance country songs some pretty obvious like George Strait: I Cross My Heart, John Michael Montgomery : I Swear, Lone Star : Amazed, but the no one was a bit surprising Rascal Flatts: Bless The Broken Road.

I noticed that Brad Paisley has been chosen to open for The Rolling Stones when they play Nashville on June 17th he says he's delighted and would be over the moon if he got to join them on stage for a few numbers – surely he will ---

I got a package through the post today and got a really nice surprise inside was a copy of the new CD from Bob Manning & Kimberly Murray called You'll Soon Be Misery Rich; along with a very nice letter from them. Put it straight on and it's brilliant some excellent tracks on it a long awaited follow up to their For One Night Only Album : was delighted to see that Kimberly recently received best album award by the Academy of Western Artistes for her album A World Away another brilliant offering and well deserved award.

Well I think that's it for another month : Roll on Summer

Until next time

Keep It Country

Christine