



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

June 2016 Newsletter

We had a lovely holiday in Cyprus the weather was very nice not too hot so we didn't have to hide under the brolly to escape, didn't do very much in fact I was quite lazy had a walk most days but otherwise ate, drank and soaked up the sunshine. We stayed in Edinburgh for a few days when we flew back more over indulging socialising and visiting, we went to see Mary Poppins as we had been given tickets at Christmas time it was amazing the most impressive musical I've seen, the stage set the cast in particular the two youngsters brilliant how they remembered all their lines beats me.

The night before we went away we went to the Legion to see the Davitt's nice to see a fair size crowd coming out to support them: as expected there were lots of club members but also folk we never see at our events. I knew there were changes to the band since they had played with us the main one being they now have a female drummer who shared vocals with Joe. For me Joe doesn't have a strong country voice but that aside they put on a good show covering a wide selection of music some great dancing stuff to keep us all on the dance floor.

On our return just had time to get the washing and ironing done and back to reality before the show on Friday night George Malcolm & Trevor Loughrey backed by the very talented Ryan Turner Band provided the entertainment for the night – and what a night it turned out to be superb music all the way.

George opened up for us; things have not been easy for them recently his wife Lynn lost her son in a fishing boat tragedy six weeks ago so it was nice to have them both with us. I say this every time George plays for us - it's not easy being a solo artiste on that big stage trying to get the crowd warmed up before the drink takes effect. However, to his credit he manages it and makes it look easy into the bargain. George covers a wide range of material during his spot we heard some numbers from his recently released CD's recorded by George at home. Inspiration contains several tracks written by George some which goes back to his original Due Boys days including Broken Hearts & Broken Dreams. The other entitled A Man This Lonely is a pure country album of country covers from some of his favourite artistes like George Jones & Buck Owens he also treated us to good old classics which we don't hear too often songs like The Answer – thanks again George -

Ryan, Stevie and John make up the very talented Ryan Turner Band from Donegal: great musicians and super guys who are kept very busy aside from playing in their own right they are a top class session band providing backing for many of the big Irish acts. They tour regularly but often seen as part of the Phil Mac country shows on Sky TV. I heard that Stevie is leaving the band shortly to join Daniel O'Donnell (not sure but think he could have been with him before) taking his place will be Paul Gallagher of Mary B and Paul fame.



Last time Trevor was with us was the night of Sandy's 70th Birthday in 2014 when the fire alarm went off with the candles and we were all outside in the cold I enjoyed him that night but thought this time he was much more confident and relaxed on stage. Trevor is a big fan of American country music and his show consists of some beautiful ballads by top country stars such as Garth Brooks Alan Jackson & George Strait (we share the same taste in music) what a brilliant job he makes of The Dance & If Tomorrow Never Comes. In contrast he then gets the dance floor full with some very up- beat lively up tempo numbers. When he's not on the road he keeps himself very busy in the studio to date he has released 8 albums his latest This Is Country Music from which we heard some popular tracks Baby Take A Picture, She's Walking Away & Chicken Fried. Let's hope he's back with us soon brilliant music and crack from Trevor and the band.



It was great to see our committee member Dennis back with us and looking well you remember I told you he has been battling cancer for over a year now thankfully things are going well for him at the moment the gruelling treatment has stopped so fingers crossed he will enjoy better health and come and join us regularly.

Saturday morning saw us heading off for our yearly day out at The Hooley in the Highlands, considering we had all been at the club the night before and some had indulged more than others we were all surprisingly fit for our mini bus trip at 8.30 am. A bacon/sausage roll stop en route set us up for the day ahead, and as per usual we had a ball great music, company, lots of crack, beautiful sunshine –what more could we want.

The Hooley is an all-day event organised by Liam & Lorraine and the Black Isle Country Music Club committee in the Spa Pavilion, Strathpeffer and what an excellent venue we were all saying it would be great if there was somewhere similar in our area for us to put on similar things.

Starting off the day with the man with the hardest job was Bill Alexander, however he successfully managed to get the crowd warmed up and the dancing started. I hadn't heard Bill for a long time forgot that he is such a talented songwriter really enjoyed listening to some of his self - penned numbers. Bill along with his band Nebraska was the first act in the club way back in October 1987 - 30th Anniversary next year.

Another solo or act bill was Dave Sheriff another guy who has been around the circuit for some time and a regular at all clubs and festivals in the north. Dave who hails from the south of England made his first public appearance playing harmonica on stage way back in 1958. He then went on to learn the guitar and drums which led to his famous One Man Band act Dave worked as a session musician in the 70's and was a regular on the stage at Wembley festival backing all the top stars. Many folk chose to sit and listen to Dave's songs I particularly enjoyed Highway Number 9 a song he wrote about travelling up the A9 and the places he passed through on his way to Sutherland. One of the highlights of the day for me were the two spots by Texas Gun, the family band from Ayrshire were part of our Festival in 009 (was it really that long ago) and of course they were our sound and light engineers (Small Town Audio) at most of our weekends.

Simon has now left the band to concentrate on Small Town and joining granddad George senior and dad George junior is young Ryan. They all have amazing voices and the three part harmonies brilliant they played just the kinda country I like I had forgotten just how good they were. Great to catch up with them George Sr has had a hip replacement but otherwise they all looked really well. It would be good to get them back up with us sometime but they would need a few gigs to make the trip worthwhile I notice in the magazines they have a busy summer they are booked for lots of the festivals in Scotland and the north of England.

Ryan Turner and the boys had a spot in their own right as I said earlier very talented experienced group of musicians' super spot. They also backed Trevor Loughrey when it was his turn to do the honours and like Friday night he again covered all the songs we wanted to hear had the floor buzzing thoroughly enjoyable spot great selection of music. Typical the day we were inside turned out to be the best one we've had hot and sunny so it was nice at the tea time break to sit outside with our ice-cream listening to Dave Sheriff playing in the band stand.

The finale of the day was a two-hour spot from young Gerry Guthrie, he really has come into his own since I first saw him and this time was the best I'd heard. Aside from being a first class singer he is also a brilliant guitarist which of course is how he started his career in music playing in bands with Sandy Kelly, Shawn Cuddy & Martin Cuffe. Gerry 's own career really took off in 2012 when he released his first single Shut Up Heart and was awarded the title Best New Band.

Gerry has a great band behind him together they played a lot of up tempo numbers from their wide range of hits those included Lucky Horseshoe, Second-hand Heart, Why You Been Gone So Long, and their brilliant new release There's A New Moon Over My Shoulder keeping all the dancers on the floor despite several encores going way over time the crowd was still reluctant to let him finish.

We eventually piled into the mini bus at 1.00am for the long trek home so it was good to eventually see our own beds, I was fine in the morning just enjoyed the sunshine – roll on next year: another brilliant line up.

It's that time of year again for the CMA Music Festival in Nashville, I am under no illusion that the north contingent will have an absolute ball if I know them. It's a few years now since I was at the festival itself it was getting a bit too modern for me even then we enjoyed the acts on the Riverfront outside stages better we met up with many of the acts we had over at the festival. I haven't really studied the line -up this year but I'm sure there are a good few I wouldn't mind seeing, you just get carried away with the atmosphere of the week there's lots going on. Downside is that Nashville is much busier than normal we struggled in Tootsies to get our beer to our mouths.

If you were at the club then you will have heard Sandy telling everyone about our up and coming July show we have added Max T Barnes to the line up along with Johnny Brady and Country Friends.

Max not to be confused with his dad Max D Barnes is best known in Nashville as an award winning songwriter amongst many others George Jones & Gene Watson has recorded his songs. His No 1 single Love me written for Colin Raye was nominated for an award at the CMA's however he was pipped at the post by dad with that beautiful number Look At Us written for Vince Gill (that would have got my vote).

Coincidentally I was listening to the Sky TV country channel and heard Bobby Bare interviewing Max and I got a surprise when he mentioned some of the great country songs he had written. He also sang couple of numbers and I thought he's ok and then to receive the news about his tour over here and if we would consider him for the club night was spooky. I then went on to You Tube and saw him performing with Johnny Brady when he was in Ireland last year they were certainly as the song says having The Craig he has also released a duet called Looking For A Girl with Lisa Stanley - looks like being a fun filled night.

This show will be a sell-out show so anyone who hasn't pre booked their tickets with myself will be disappointed, they will be on sale to members until the end of the next show and then go on sale to the public. So please don't walk out past me without letting me know no point in coming to the door if your names are not on my list.

Our next show will also be very busy lots of requests for tickets be great to have Thomas & Fhiona back with us it's been a while: poor Fhiona lost her dad very suddenly recently so it was good that she felt as able to continue with their tour. The couple released their single Love Of A Child in April 2016 I'm Sure that their beautiful little daughter Cherise would have something to do with that. Joining Thomas & Fhiona will be the popular duo Buzzard Creek Billy & John from Falkirk two cracking regulars with us who give the crowd what they want to hear.

Ally had a touch of man flu over the weekend I just had the cold !!! so we weren't out and watched quite a bit of tele Friday night there was a programme on about The Highwaymen. It was a documentary giving a bit of background on them all it told of Waylon and Johnny's problems with their addictions and how they managed to get clean again. It also followed them playing together wife's and kids often accompanied them on tour it they certainly enjoyed themselves and had lots of fun. It was followed by footage of one of their live concerts great music – boy can Willie play that guitar.

I read recently that Vince Gill has been honoured with the Nashville Convention Centre's Bud Wendell Award recognising contributions to the success of the tourism and convention business in Music City. They said his participation in expanding the Country Music Hall of Fame & Museum, his fund raising. help in designing the Bridgestone Arena, supporting and hosting sport events made him a worthy winner. Vince along with the Time Jumpers play every Monday night at a little club in Nashville called 3rd & Lindsley on the itinerary for the crowd visiting at the moment – the place won't know what's hit it.

Last month's Country Music People's magazines CD of the month was the new release from Heart of Texas artist Landon Dodd, the album entitled What Comes Natural to a Fool received a glowing review from Duncan Warwick. Couldn't believe it was 6 years ago since Landon's last release Call of the Wine before they were over for the festival in 2011 I thought it was an excellent album and this one appears to be the same. As Duncan says Landon has one of these voices suited to his style of country following the footsteps of the greats: on the album he sings covers from some of those including Mel Tillis, Faron Young, Moe Bandy Haggard & Jones. I kept meaning to order it haven't done so but will get round to it.

Loretta Lynn made an announcement the other night telling us that her grandson Jeffrey had died very expectantly at her ranch this week aged only 47. Sadly, Loretta is no stranger to tragedy - her son Jack Jeffrey's father drowned in 1984, and she has lost a daughter aged 50. Subsequently she has cancelled her shows scheduled for the next few weeks.

Like me you will all have been spitting feathers when you heard that ABC had axed season 4 of the Nashville TV series fans of the show have been up in arms signing petitions and campaigning for it to continue, the actors themselves are happy to run with another series so it must be all to do with politics behind the scenes. Well it's looking a bit more hopeful that it may return there's been a few channels showing an interest in taking it over hope so!!

After 50 years of marriage, Dolly and her husband have renewed their wedding vows – and they did it in a way that only Dolly Parton could pull off.

The country icon and her publicity-shy husband, Carl Dean, married on May 30, 1966, and they celebrated their golden anniversary by renewing their vows at a private ceremony in Nashville.

"If I had it to do all over, I'd do it all over again, and we did," Parton says in a press release. "I'm dragging him kicking and screaming into the next 50 years. Wish us luck. In all honesty, the only way I was able to get Carl to do any of this in the first place was that it was a great opportunity for us to raise money for some very worthy causes."

Parton will auction off the photos of the private ceremony to the highest bidder, with the money going to benefit children's charities. After 50 years of completely avoiding the public side of his wife's career, she has even convinced her camera-shy husband to sit for his first-ever interview, which she conducted using questions submitted by fans. That exclusive interview will be released to coincide with the photos, "My first thought was, 'I'm gonna marry that girl,'" he says, recalling the first time he saw Parton at the Wishy Washy Laundromat. "My second thought was, 'Lord she's good looking.'" And that was the day my life began. I wouldn't trade the last 50 years for nothing on this earth." Aww how nice

Well I think that's it for now hopefully we will get a decent summer this year

Until next time

Keep it country

Christine