



# Northern Nashville Country Music Club

## November 2010 Newsletter

I can't believe another week has flown by since the Club night it's a scary thought, the shops are now full of Christmas things, time just disappears.

Anyway we had a great night for our very special award show. Our support band for the night were two great guys from Lochinver who go under the name of Wood 'N Stone. It's quite a time since we've had the duo in the Club as Pete is always busy with work commitments; however they were a refreshing change. Pete has a very nice laid back type of country voice, good hearing him sing numbers from the good old Colorado days and the late Davie Duff and Willie Anderson, lots of nostalgia and sentiment.

Next on stage were Thomas Maguire and Fhiona Ennis who were delighted to have been voted our Band of the Year Winners for 2009, by the club members. The couple, who played as part of our 2010 Festival, have been very busy touring; their stage act is currently receiving glowing reviews and they have earned the reputation of country's most popular duetting combination. Earlier this year they received Vocal Duo of the Year Award in Athlone and their new album *Solid As A Rock* has just reached the number one position in the country charts.

The pair, who clearly enjoy what they do, gave a great nights entertainment with a cross section of music. Fhionna treated us to a few numbers on the sax and they sang some songs from their new album including *Come Back to Ireland*, written by band member Eugene.

A lively performance from a great bunch, Fhiona is a bright and bubbly character and she made us all laugh as we were posing for photos when in true Fhiona fashion she commanded Thomas to hold it, I think she meant the trophy!

Thomas, Fhiona and their band were leaving after the show to go to Aberdeen where they were playing as part of Muriel Mutch's country weekend in Dyce. They didn't seem to be in a hurry which is just as well as Sandy wouldn't let them off the stage.

I thought it might have been quiet and maybe some of our members would be off to Aberdeen but we had a good crowd and a great atmosphere.

As you all know, after our loyal club and committee member Sandy sadly passed away last year, we felt it would be appropriate to do something in his memory. Given that Sandy was passionate about his country music and very supportive of our local bands we decided a fitting reminder would be to introduce an award in his memory to be presented to The Local Band of the Year.

Voted by our members this years well deserved winners, by a clear majority, of the Sandy Swanson Memorial Trophy were Slange Ava. We were delighted when Sandy's wife Jenny and their two daughters agreed to join us to present the award, not an easy thing for them, however we know that Sandy would have been pleased and proud they were able to do it.

Band members Keith, James, Chris & Donnie were delighted to be the first winners of this very special award and said 'it's an honour to receive something that means so much Sandy was a great guy who loved his music.'

This week sees Slange Ava releasing their first DVD - good timing for Christmas presents, but sadly their CD won't be ready for release until into the New Year, but something worth waiting for.

I think last time I told you we were off to Wick for the Triple C's, 20th Anniversary all day Festival. Well we had a great day - all 300 tickets were sold, with lots of people travelling to support the Club. It was fine to have the time to blether to folk - I caught up with Colin and Maureen from Orkney and some of the east coasters.

The music was supplied by Robbie and the Brothers, Nickels and Dimes, Broken Wing, The Dynamos and Joe Moore - a truly excellent day of country music, well done to the committee who worked hard putting it all together, it was well worth it, and everyone I spoke to had a ball.

I spoke to Liam and Lorraine Christie who have had to move their monthly Black Isle CMC from Inverness and now hold their monthly shows in Dingwall Legion Club. On November 27<sup>th</sup> they have The Playboys and on December 11<sup>th</sup> Paula MacAskill. We all wish them good luck with their new venue.

Well that's the Festival TV coverage finished, I thought they did a very good job of putting it together this year, they did well showing Caithness and the tourist bits. I struggled to pick people out so will have to watch it a few times yet to see everyone. I wasn't very happy with some of the songs they chose to show for some of the bands and don't think they did justice to them all, but unfortunately we have no control over that. Still again I think it can only have done us good, certainly I have had a lot of phone calls and e-mails from folk interested in coming next year since they watched it. I am looking forward to seeing highlights from the Kelso Festival for the next three weeks and have no idea what they are going to show for the final two programmes.

I heard a couple of weeks ago the sad news that Pat McCool had passed away - at this time I don't know any details. Pat was with us at our 2007 Festival and several times in the club as Logue and McCool with his partner Chris Logue.

Together they were as talented as they were unusual. Pat was confined to a wheel chair and Chris blind since birth, however the duo could enthral the audience with their rich tones and close harmonies, a sad loss to country music.

I read that George Richey, husband of Tammy Wynette, had also recently died.

I was going to have a piece written for this month on all the acts appearing at next years Festival however I just haven't had the time - maybe for next time. Mind you if you've been watching the Tru Country programmes on Rural Channel 280 on Monday nights you will have heard them all playing, so you know what a treat you are in for seeing them appear live at Halkirk.

I see that Marty Stuart and his band are paying a visit to the UK early next year, playing in Glasgow as part of Celtic Connections Festival on January 28<sup>th</sup>. Marty has a weekly programme on Rural TV which airs two or three nights a week, and of course he is the husband of the fine country singer Connie Smith. I think Rual Maylo (ex-Maverick fame) is also playing over the Celtic Festival.

I also see Alan Jackson is releasing a 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary album featuring 34 of his biggest hits - good one for the record collection.

The tickets for next years Festival are now on sale, but typical Bettine has just gone on holiday! I think I said when this happened before that there was to be no holidays during ticket selling time as she leaves a phone message directing everyone to here.

However I am really jealous as she is in Nashville, with a plane load of Irish folk - a definite combination for a great holiday. Aside from doing all the usual tourist things she has managed to get tickets for the 44<sup>th</sup> CMA Award show.

I don't think she will need her evening dress for sitting down front with Alan Jackson, George Strait, Kenny Chesney and whoever else will be there.

Still it will be great to be there and soak up the atmosphere don't think we are going to see it on TV this time again - never mind I'm sure she'll tell me all about it!

Well I think that's about it for now. The 26<sup>th</sup> sees us having another great club night; we have Arizona Flame and the Outlaws - two very good bands. Then its Christmas time again and on the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> December Tony Kerr and band, along with Slange Ava, provide the entertainment for both nights, so remember to book your tickets and come along and have your Christmas party night out with us.

Until next time,

Keep it Country

*Christine*

Christine Gray  
Chairperson NNCCM