



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

Nov 2011 Newsletter

Thought I'd better make the effort and get the newsletter done on time this month I've no excuse now since I'm not working. However things have been as hectic as ever since I finished work certainly haven't found the time to relax.

I had my retirement party in the Legion on the 22nd, between colleagues past and present, family and friends there was about 170 at it and we all had a great night - me included once I got all the formalities out of the way. The music was supplied by Slange Ava - they put on a great night as usual and got us all in the party mood. Everyone was there to enjoy themselves and we sure did. I got to bed at 5.30 but was first up next day, tidied up, got the frying pan on and before I knew it I had another houseful so we had a few wines again, more food - just had to be done! The week continued with more socialising and catching up with friends who had travelled north to join me at the weekend, so the diet starts again next week!!

Before I knew it Friday night again and time for another show and what a cracker we had, despite some of our regulars and committee being away in Aberdeen at the Mutch's weekend at Dyce.

Kicking off the nights entertainment from Falkirk one of the most popular duos on the circuit Buzzard Creek who certainly gave us a *Pure Country* set (the name of their recently released CD). A very versatile pair who covered the whole range of country from the more modern numbers like *People Are Crazy & Margaritaville*, favourites like *Ramblin' Fever*, through to country standards such as *Please Help Me I'm Falling*, all of which can be found on their 15 track album. The pair, two cracking guys, are certainly worthy of their popularity around the country clubs.

Next spot was covered by a six piece outfit from Northern Ireland and are a new name to the club Jesse Conlon & The Jesse Conlon Band. They have only been together for a short time but that certainly wasn't obvious. Jesse hails from Sligo and for many years was a drummer in a rock band, however he decided he preferred country and joined Sandy Kelly's band, touring with her all over Ireland and Great Britain. Following audience reaction to his singing he formed his own band which includes some of the best musicians in Ireland.

He has recorded a six track EP playing covers such as *We Split The Blanket & Designated Drinker* - this was the style of music. He played for most of the night throwing in some 60's and Neil Diamond songs during his last spot, I especially enjoyed his Garth Brooks numbers.

Jesse stepped in to cover our show at fairly short notice. John and I had listened to his E.P and agreed he had a great voice, we liked his stuff and thought he would go down well in the club, so were delighted when he agreed to make the long trek north and play for us.

The poor guy wasn't feeling the best he said he had been fighting off something all week and got steadily worse as the night went on and started burning up, I went home and got him some flu capsules and strepsils.

He was really disappointed that he wasn't on the best of form, he did struggle a bit at times but the band shared vocals with him which was fine. It certainly didn't spoil the night for us - he has a great country voice and went down very well with the members. I'm sure it won't take them long to get established and make a name for themselves, and they have already been asked to support Georgette Jones and Billy Yates on their forthcoming tour of Ireland.

As an added bonus we had a young local band called 58 Degrees North making their debut in the club. The youngsters were well supported by family and friends and were a bit apprehensive, but they needn't have worried as they did very well and got a great, earning a well deserved reception. Their line up includes Jack Cowan on lead vocals, brother James on drums, sister Maisie on the boxie, guitar and vocals (what a very talented family), and also friend Craig Macintosh on guitar. Their set included quite a range of numbers such as *Cotton Fields*, *Wagon Wheel*, *Louisiana Saturday Night* and more up tempo songs like *I Used To Love Her* which had the dance floor bouncing. Great to see a young band playing country music, it reminded me of the first time we had the Chicken Pickers in the club - they were shy and there wasn't a lot of interaction with the crowd. Well look how far they've come since then and I'm sure it will be the same for these guys Well Done.

I was reading through some of the news items sent through the internet and noticed that last Saturday Georgette Jones married Jamie Lennon in the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville.

The great female country singer Loretta Lynn has been poorly with pneumonia. Apparently the 76-year-old was on her tour bus and woke complaining of breathing difficulties. She received treatment in hospital and is now recovering at home - we wish her a speedy recovery.

I was speaking to Hugh O'Brien from TV's Hot Country and he is getting ready to go away on his annual trip to Nashville. Whilst there he will cover events like CMA Awards, Walk of Fame etc. for showing on the programme. They will also be doing the usual touristy things in and around Nashville so it should be a good trip and we will look forwards to the highlights on TV. Part of their yearly itinerary is to go to the Grand Ole Opry however this time they will have to go to its former venue, The Ryman Auditorium, as its returning there for the next three months.

Irish singer Robert Mizzell, who arranges trips to America for fans every year to visit his home territory in Louisiana, has recently been inducted into the Shreveport Walk of Stars. Following the ceremony Robert performed a free concert for the public.

I noticed that veteran country star Don Williams is returning to tour Britain next April. Don has continued to be one of the most successful singers over his 40 year career and has had 45 top ten hits and 17 number 1 singles, all delivered in his typical 'laid back' style. He was recognised for his contribution to country music when he was elected into the Country Music Hall Of Fame last year.

Glen Campbell is currently on his farewell tour which includes dates in Ireland, Glasgow and Aberdeen - sadly he was recently diagnosed with Alzheimer's, a sad way to end his 50 year career. To coincide with his tour he has released his final album - I have heard some tracks on the radio and they sound very good.

I haven't heard any feedback regarding the Toby Keith concert last weekend. Val and Donald were going to see him in Edinburgh on Sunday so must ask them how it went.

I haven't heard Darryn's news about the weekend in Aberdeen either. I did find out they had a late night partying into the wee small hours with Nathan Carter and the Band, so must see what Jenny has to say on Facebook about it all.

Latest exhibit opening in the Country Music Hall of Fame in downtown Nashville is called the Bakersfield Sound featuring Merle Haggard and Buck Owens - it will showcase for the next two years.

Well I can't think of anything else at the moment. Next month will be here before we know it and I can't believe the members are ordering tickets for the Christmas show already - scary!

Until next time, keep it Country.

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCMC