



# Northern Nashville Country Music Club

## November 2013 Newsletter

Got a shock when someone said to me on Friday night at the club that it was a year ago since we were celebrating our 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary where did it go.

That's the clocks changed so it'll be dark mornings and nights now for months to come what a thought and I won't mention how many weeks, days etc until Christmas.

Well we had a lovely two weeks in Cyprus I panicked the first three or four days as the weather just wasn't that great it was very cloudy and windy really quite chilly in the evenings more like the temperatures they see in January.

However it then climbed up again into the thirties so I was then warned not to moan it was too hot. Since we had been in Cyprus a few times before we had driven all around the island and done the tourist bits so that gave me the perfect excuse for being lazy just pottering around eating and drinking too much. I was ready for coming home, I always think two weeks is a bit long (when there's just the two of us) ten or eleven days is fine, mind you I am nearly at the stage of thinking was I ever away and I can see the tan fading fast.

Friday night saw the club showcasing two of the presenters from Sky's Phil Mac Country Show, the big man with the huge voice and personality Glenn Rogers, and the lovely songbird Lisa Stanley.



It was June 2011 when Glenn appeared last in the club as part of Three Card Trick this time it was just Two Card Trick, and Glenn was joined on stage with the brilliant musician Les Evans. They received a brilliant reception from the members the last time they were with us and this time round was no different.

Glenn has an amazing country voice it's spellbinding I could listen to it for ever that coupled with Les's excellent guitar playing must make them one of the most entertaining duos around and two of the nicest guys in the business.

They delivered something from every conceivable genre of music from Hank Williams to Brad Paisley also numbers we don't hear very often, some receiving the Two Card Trick adaptation a truly polished performance and ultimate entertainment.

We haven't seen Glenn very much recently along with Phil Mac as he has been busy fulfilling his own commitments and much of Phil's show is now recorded in Ireland.

Sadly Les hasn't been enjoying the best of health recently and will be taking a break, we wish him a speedy recovery back to full health and hope he's back on the road soon --- a man with a superb talent---

Speaking of which Glenn was telling us that he is putting out a country show on Showcase channel SKY 191 its called The Smith & Rogers Country Show starring himself and Henry Smith it's recorded live from Pentney Country Music Club in Norfolk and it's a platform on which to promote British Country Music. Now I thought it was going out on Sunday at 11.00 Am however I couldn't find it (but will keep looking) but I did notice a few programmes I had missed so worth running through the channels titles just to make sure you haven't been missing out on any programmes like me.



Backing Lisa on stage were a great bunch of guys who call them selves the Salt Creek Band they are no strangers to the club they have in the past backed Ruddy Grant and The Calhoun's last time was in January 2010 when they were due to support Georgette Jones.

Drummer Pat had put a lot of work into arranging the Georgette Jones tour so was devastated when it all fell apart, they braved the elements and travelled all the way from Birmingham in horrific weather to play for us.

Pat's wife Caroline supplied lead vocals that night (and if my memory serves me right Joanne, Bettine and myself provided backing) and we had a great time with them. Joining Pat on stage was Stu, Steve and Vince a super bunch no Caroline with them on Friday night she was at home looking after baby number four, -- all girls what chance does poor Pat have --

Their journey last time was a nightmare and this one wasn't much better they were playing in Glasgow's Grand Ole Opry on the Thursday night and their van broke down just outside Glasgow. Nothing else for it but they slept in the club on Thursday night and had to get the RAC to sort things out for them on Friday morning. As their replacement van was smaller they couldn't fit in all their gear, so needless to say they were disappointed and tired but it certainly didn't hold them back or affect their performance in any way they were brilliant.

The first thing that struck everyone about Lisa was how small she is, she certainly looks a lot taller on the T.V. I had seen her before so knew that she really is very petite.

Lisa from Sligo is the daughter of Maisie McDaniel the first female country music singer to come out of Ireland and famous father Fintan Stanley. It was obvious she had music in her blood and no surprise when she started out on the music scene in her early teens playing in bands.

Lisa then took time out for a while in 2008 to look after her mother who at that time was very ill and also care for her young daughter before teaming up with Phil Mac as co-presenter of the show in 2010.

Following her mother's death Lisa recorded an album which featured ten of her favourite songs including duets by Sandy Kelly and Philomena who were two of her mum's friends also her aunt Deirdre McDaniel. Lisa's has released her second album entitled *Love Me A Little Bit Longer* it contains a cross section of music including *Room Full Of Roses*, *Blackboard Of My Heart*, *Silver Threads And Golden Needles* & *Who Cares*. Lisa and Glenn make a great job of the powerful ballad *We've Got Tonight* she also duets with Eddie Carey on the 60's number *Every Time You Walk In the Room*. During the course of her set Lisa sang her way through many of the songs from the album also throwing in some Irish and gospel numbers I enjoyed the number *Walking In My Mothers Footsteps* a song written especially for Lisa by Mary O'Brien about the relationship Lisa had with her mum.

So a very varied and enjoyable programme beautifully sung by the lovely Lisa, sadly we didn't have a full house we could have done with a bigger crowd – to help pay the bills –

Nice to see our former Chairperson and his wife Barbara with us at our club night and I pleased to say that he was looking so much better, hopefully they will manage to get along to a few more shows now.



Dolly Parton was slightly injured in a car accident in Nashville last week she was travelling with a friend when they were hit by a car which failed to stop at a junction.

They were all taken to hospital but thankfully no one was seriously injured, Dolly was a bit bruised and sore, but you can imagine the jokes doing the rounds about airbags etc.

Dolly will be touring the U.K. next June doing gigs in both Glasgow and Aberdeen, I haven't looked myself but I have heard people saying that the tickets are an extortionate price nothing under £150 that seems ridiculous if that's the case.

I was told recently that Florence who is the female part of Country Features lost her husband, he had been very poorly with M.S. for a long time but it was very sudden and a shock to her when it happened.

On a happier note I heard recently that the lovely Nashville singer/song writer husband and wife duo Joey and Rory are having a baby which is due in February.

They are regular visitors to Britain and were part of our Festival in 2012, so delighted to hear that news and wish them all the best.

I am having lots of phone calls from people looking for tickets for both our November and December shows.

I asked everyone who was in the club on Friday night to give me their ticket requirements so if you weren't there and still want to be part of these shows please give me a ring on 01847 892410 to let me know what tickets you would like.

I am sure both shows will be a sell out and admission will only be with pre booked tickets.

The next show of course is Jason McGilligan the young Irish man who brought last years festival to a close in great style, so we are really looking forward to having him in the club. Also on the bill will be the young lady Shannon who sang at the festival with Slange Ava but this time she will be on stage with Robbie and The Brothers --- so I can see why the tickets are in demand---

Hard to believe but two weeks later we will be having our Christmas shows and as I told you before this was another line up we had to change, The Davitts will be playing along with Slange Ava on Friday night only and on Saturday it will be the last appearance by Slange Ava and along with them will be the popular George Malcolm.

I have a great demand for tickets for the Friday night, Saturday night we still have plenty at the minute so if you are planning a works night out or Christmas get together with friends then why don't you come along if you give me a ring I will reserve a table for you.

For those of you waiting to hear if you are able to get tickets or not I haven't forgotten and will get back to you as soon as I can.

Following on from BBC's ALBA Ceol Country series highlighting the festival we have had a mixed response and feedback.

Some people thought it was brilliant and I have had e-mails from folk all over the country who enjoyed them requesting tickets for next year.

However there has also been lots of negativity mostly concerning the quality of sound, the content and the fact that they don't capture the atmosphere (same points raised every year).

We have met with MNE the production company and taken all the feedback and comments to them, I must say they were shocked as they were pleased with the programmes and had only received favourable reports.

As I have said in the past it's their programmes they have chosen to showcase our event as it contains a cross section of styles of country music both home grown and International which they can't get from any other festival.

We have no say in the content or what they show they have to select what they think their audience would be interested to see hence the different links and stories.

I agree that some sections of the sound quality just wasn't as sharp as it could be but whilst their technical explanation is way above my understanding, the bottom line is it doesn't go out live.

Likewise it doesn't fully capture the atmosphere as many of you who were there point out and as you say it's a festival in a converted barn it looks the part gives folk the opportunity to see some great acts playing real country music why worry if it's not perfection.

Speaking of festivals we had what we thought a final line up but for various reasons and circumstances out with our control we have had to make some changes (fingers crossed there are no more)

The new line up will be on the web shortly we don't think you will be disappointed although sadly our local bands are short on the ground.

The tickets are ordered and should be on sale within the next couple of weeks

The price of the full weekend is £85.00 (I think exceptional value) and there will also be the usual single show ones available, we have changed the times which means you are getting more music time. The afternoon shows will now start at 2.00pm run through until 6.30pm we will then have a break to get tidied up etc for an hour during which you will be permitted to stay in the building or go and get food - no standing outside in the cold - and the evening programme will commence at 7.30pm.

The firm who supply the heating have been up and they are suggesting a couple of different type of heating (which of course will have to be passed by the council regarding safety).

This will not involve taking in the cold air so should make a big difference they will also be present during the weekend to deal with any problems - so hopefully our main problem solved-

We are holding our Festival AGM on Monday night 3rd November in Caithness Horizons at 7.30pm you are all very welcome to come along put forward any suggestions you might have to improve on the Festival and we can answer any questions you may have. That is apart from the one we are frequently being asked at the moment "Is this the last one" well until we hold it we have no idea, if you don't want it to finish then support it.

I told you a wee while back that the Festival was nominated for Event of the Year by the British Country Music Association we have no hope of winning as I told you the competition we were up against but we decided that it would be nice to go along anyway so six of us are going.

We fly to London on Friday the 22nd November, the awards show is on the Sunday and we come home again on the Tuesday nice to see London especially at the time of year will do some sightseeing and go to a show.

Won't be such a glamorous occasion as the Annual CMA Awards in Nashville which takes place on November 6<sup>th</sup> - interesting to see who wins this time around.

The tickets are now on sale for the 2nd Country 2 Country Show at the O2 in London on March 15th & 16th the line up will include Brad Paisley, Zac Brown, Dixie Chicks, Rascal Flatts, Dierks Bentley & Martina McBride. I am sure it will be a brilliant event too near the Festival for me to think about going anyway the only person I would really like to see whom I haven't seen would be Brad Paisley.

Two not very pleasant pieces of news I heard recently was that Linda Ronstadt has been diagnosed as battling Parkinson's disease, she said she was having trouble doing anything like brushing her hair or to get her hands above her head and even singing was becoming a problem, hopefully they will be able to relieve some of her symptoms with medication.

Alison Kraus has been diagnosed with a condition that can include laryngitis, vocal nodes and symptoms such as a hoarse and rough voice dry throat and she may struggle to sing high note -- not very handy--

Well I think that's about it for this month.

Until next time.

Keep It Country

*Christine*

Christine Gray  
Chairperson NNCCMC