



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

November 2014 Newsletter

Halloween and Guy Fawkes have been and gone thankfully no tricks for us last Friday night only treats our club night certainly went off with a bang. The lead up had been frustrating to say the least we had band cancellations at the last minute and also the Derek Ryan show in Wick to compete with.

However no need to have worried Robbie and the Brothers agreed to help us out and share the bill with Rockin' Horse and we're sure glad he did what a fantastic night of country music we had. Thankfully a brilliant turn out almost a full house great to see 99% of our members turning out to support us along with our friends from Wick and visitors from all over – a big thanks to you all.

I received an e-mail the other day from Kevin & Donna from Buckie who were first time visitors to NNCMC they do a lot of travelling around clubs and said they had never before met such a friendly bunch of people and wanted me to thank everyone for making them feel so welcome - so that was nice -once again our Caithness hospitality shone through they certainly did have a ball thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Robbie on lead vocals was joined on stage by the accomplished guitarist Ron and youngest son Ryan who has many talents including playing steel, keyboards, accordion drums and as a sound engineer.

Robbie and the boys always give us a great nights entertainment and this time was no different during the course of the show we heard some golden oldies and standards from his heroes in country like Gene Watson and George Strait along with some for the romantics and others we don't hear very often like Kelly and of course a selection of up tempo numbers to keep the dance floor busy. The boys have lots of friends here who insured they enjoyed themselves both on and off stage.



Rockin' Horse travelled all the way from Galashiels to be with us the three piece band consist of George Inglis on lead & vocals Dave on drums and Gavin on bass together they put on a superb show giving us an all round selection of country music . They are a little bit different from most bands George is very laid back and has the type of voice made for the type of country he sings such as covers from Johnny Cash and Elvis. This time again the crowd took to them enjoying their stage presence and crack loving Georges "Well, well, well" and "I love you" in his American! drawl.

Feedback was very positive everyone left saying how much they enjoyed the night maybe it's something we could look at having more often even Alan our treasurer went home a happy man it must have been one of the few shows this year we made money so thanks to the bands for making the night such great success and yourselves for turning up.



Our next show is Mustang along with Shaun Loughrey which promises to be another great night then Christmas another nightmare with two cancellations from bands who kept us hanging on again until the last minute knowing how difficult it is to get bands at that time of year. Anyway all's well that ends well we have Barry Doyle and his Country Band playing for us on both Friday & Saturday the 12th and 13th December also on Friday night will be father and son duo Drew and Terry or Double Trouble. All welcome to come along any night you want, on Friday night it will be our normal times and format (apart from no cabaret just dancing). Saturday it will be a dance only to Barry Doyle starting at 9.00 pm and for parties or work nights out we will reserve a table for you – folk have already started booking tables!

I am sure by now that most of you will have heard that we are going ahead with our Festival next year a decision we didn't take lightly. Although none of us wanted to call it a day we had to consider the financial position we found ourselves in last year after a drop in ticket sales. So with the promise of some funding help from our council and H.I.E. we decided to go for it so it was full steam ahead putting a line up in place and getting things organised. This will certainly be the make or break year there's no way we will receive more funding so we need you all to come and support us and an increase in ticket sales. We think we have come up with another great line up taken back a couple of acts who were popular introduced some new ones again something for everyone. Until the end of January the full weekend ticket can be purchased at the early bird price of £85 which is the same as the last two years and exceptional value where else can you get more than 27 hours of entertainment never mind International acts for that price? We are holding our Festival AGM on Thursday 20th November at 7.30 pm in Caithness Horizons feel free to come along and join us.

The tickets are on order and should be available within the next week or so to get them either contact Bettine on 01847 892624 or through Ticketmaster and why not buy a country fan a gift voucher for Christmas they can be purchased for any amount.

Talking about Festival we have this year again been nominated by the BCMA for Festival of the Year 2014 the only Scottish nomination so another jaunt to London at the end of the month for Alan, Evelyn, Isobel, Bettine, Ally and myself. Even if we don't win anything it's an honour to be recognised for our contribution to country music and the bonus of course a great weekend in London.

I heard that there wasn't a big crowd at the Derek Ryan show it's such a shame if it had been on the Saturday night we would have run a bus from Thurso and we would have all been there we tried to tell them organisers they were making a mistake and now it will put promoters off bringing other acts up. Disappointing for Derek and the Band however I heard they put on a good show of which I was in doubt he is a great young entertainer.

The organisers have recently released the line up for the Country 2 Country event which takes place on the 7TH& 8TH March in the O2 London, it will feature Luke Bryan, Florida Georgia Line, Brandy Clark all of whom were award winners at the Annual Country Music Award Show in Nashville this week alongside Jason Aldean, Lady Antebellum and Leanne Womack. No disputing like any other live event it will be spectacular but I must be getting old much too rocky for me although I would like to see Leanne Womack and Lady Antebellum. However looks like another sell out weekend no good seats at £200 left only ones at £87.50 goodness knows where you would be for that watching a big screen I suspect.

I had to laugh when I read that Taylor Swift has now officially become a pop singer and she no longer wants to be known as a country star she apparently refused to include any country songs on her newly released album which will be her first all pop release it's called 1989 (year she was born) and this week we heard it was the first album of 2014 to sell a million copies. No loss for me really by no stretch of the imagination was she ever a country artiste she has also moved to New York from Nashville but on saying that she was again nominated for Female Entertainer of the Year at the awards but after announcing her split from country she surely didn't expect to get anything.

I thought it summed up brilliantly in this month's CMDS mag and hope Ken doesn't mind me sharing it with you Merle Haggard was quoted as saying "I don't listen to country radio any more I don't understand what they are doing, I don't find entertainment in it" Merle went on to say that he has nothing in common with most artists currently in the charts and what he finds most galling is that's it's mostly the same eight to ten musicians you hear on every record on the radio. "There's too much boogie woogie wham -bam going on and it's being called country music - It's not- and so says the man who has been in the country music business since the early 60's.

The 48th Annual Country Music Award Show took place in Nashville on Wednesday night hosted again by Carrie Underwood and Brad Paisley it was a bit like husband and wife show for Miranda Lambert and Blake Shelton. Thirty year old Miranda has collected eleven CMA Awards in her career which puts her ahead of any other female star this year her fifth consecutive Female Vocalist title beats a record set by Reba Macintyre & Martina McBride. Miranda also took home Album of the Year for Platinum and Single Of the year for Automatic, Music Event of the Year for We Were Us with Keith Urban. Her other half Blake Shelton like his wife made CMA history tying with Vince Gill & George Strait for five times Male Vocalist winner. Luke Bryan won Entertainer of the Year against George Strait, Blake Shelton & Keith Urban and he also took the Top Selling Album category with Crash My Party. Vocal Group of the Year hat trick for Little Big Town and a second Duo of the Year win for Florida Georgia Line.

Also last week Alan Jackson was presented at the very prestigious American Society of Composers Authors and Publishers Awards, with the Heritage Award for the most performed country music songwriter of ASCAP'S first 100 years. Alan was very shocked and surprised but honoured to be given the title and said "I'm a singer of simple songs and like to write and sing good country music"

To mark his 25 years in country music Alan recently opened his exhibition in the Country Music Hall of Fame which runs until March and will be kicking off his Keeping It Country Tour in January (sadly only American dates so far) During his 25 years in the business Alan has:-

- Sold 60 million albums worldwide.
- Released more than 60 singles.
- One of the bestselling country artistes of all time.
- Had 50 top ten hits.
- Had 35 number ones.
- Earned 150 music industry awards.
- Won 18 Academy of Country Music Awards.
- Won 16 CMA Awards.

More winners at the ASCAP centennial award night was Garth Brooks, Billy Joel & Stevie Wonder who they claim have touched the lives of others through their music.

Not to be left out the BMI's Newest Icon Award winner is Vince Gill who has been twice named CMA Entertainer of the Year.

Speaking about award winners what about nearer home young Brandon McPhee part of Manson Grant & the Dynamos has certainly had a lot to celebrate recently he has turned eighteen and passed his driving test. Aside from that he has once again been crowned Scottish Senior Accordion Champion in Perth bringing home the Jimmy Shand Shield & Mike Ainsworth Cup and just before that he scored a hat trick at the National Mod when he won Scottish Button Key Accordion Championship .What a talent he is just a natural what a great achievement for someone so young. Caithness is all very proud of him Well Done Brandon.

Another winner is the DVD & CD entitled The Dynamos 50 Years & More, it's brilliant I thoroughly enjoyed it a nostalgic journey covering 50 years of the Dynamos then and now through music, film, classic footage and live recordings. I won't spoil it for you but lots of familiar faces from years gone by all of whom were part of the band full time there's a tour around Caithness / Sutherland pointing out where all the band members came from and good a few of them are present at the live recording to give a song. Of course there's also some great music on it in total 21 songs, which can also be heard on the CD (of the same name). We also get the opportunity to see some of the 100 Awards the Dynamos have accumulated over the years they are proud of them all and no more so than the ones presented by their local clubs Triple C and NNCCM there's not many who are still as popular as ever after 50 years in the business. If you want to purchase the DVD you can get it locally from Tickety Boo priced £15, CD £12 or on line from Pan Records it's a great watch and would make a super Christmas present.

I was over doing some clearing out in my Mums house the other day in the loft I found a pile of old Country Music People Mags from then 80's and in the record cupboard some great old LP'S including ones from Jeannie Pruet, Carol Baker, Freddie Hart, her hero Marty Robins and a very young Arthur Pottinger. Good job I hadn't anything to play them on or I would have just sat and listened and read the magazines and I was warned in advance not to trail anything else home to put in our loft!!

We had a right night of country on BBC 4 on Friday night I didn't watch it all, some I had seen before and bits I recorded I enjoyed the programme about the history of the country scene in Nashville. Next Friday night there's more there's a Johnny cash documentary then Bob Harris My Nashville also Brad Paisley and Friends. In fact there are lots on at the moment you struggle to catch them all on SKY 191 Irish T.V. Sunday there's Phil Mack; On The Road with Lisa McHugh; Ireland West Music & Hot Country. On Showcase 192 on Monday there's Inside Music Row; Tuesday Keep It Country; Wednesday CM&T Video Show; Thursday Smith Rogers Country Show.

Well I think that's about all the news until next time

Until next time.

Keep It Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC