



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

October 2009 Newsletter

I am really out of my routine these days I was so late getting the last newsletter out that there was no news following the last club night. Hope you weren't all bored reading my last masterpiece I did go on a bit but I can assure this one won't be as long!

Better start with the August show. The music was provided by Paddy O'Brien who was supported by The Brothers and, as an added bonus, a guest appearance by The Chicken Pickers.

Robbie and The Brothers - the very popular band from the east coast - always receive a very warm welcome in the Club. As usual they treated us to a wide range of numbers keeping the dance floor busy with their up tempo 60's numbers, alongside belting out some ballads for the romantics amongst us.

Star of the show Paddy O'Brien, from County Waterford, remains very popular judging by the number of fans who travelled from different parts of the country to see him. He started singing at an early age and was influenced by country greats like Marty Robbins and Slim Whitman and this was evident as he included many of their numbers throughout his set. Yodelling is one of Paddy's trademarks and he did a splendid job of *Indian Love Call* amongst others, throughout the night he delivered a cross section of Irish, country and middle of the road numbers.

The Chicken Pickers were the young school boys who wowed the audience at this years Festival. For a group of teenagers they are full of confidence, interact with the audience, and clearly enjoy themselves on stage. They are definitely country fans and played music by such artistes as Johnny Cash and Dwight Yoakam. The members thoroughly enjoyed their spot and looks like these lads have a great future in music - let's hope they keep it country.

We had lots of visitors in the Club, many of them mine, so I had a fairly lively - and none too sober - household (excluding me) when we got home, however I was a lot chirpier and brighter than most in the morning.

The month has flown by and we had another show on Friday night. We had a change of band as Custers Last Band were unable to play so they were replaced by The Playboys supported by Country Features.

Country features are a very popular duo in Scotland and have in the past been voted Band of the year in the Tucson Club in Edinburgh. The pair scores a hit with our Nashville members every time they appear in the Club, and not just because Florence always brings tins of sweeties with her which she passes around! Florence, from Omagh, and Robbie, from County Fermanagh, met at a country music talent competition in 2005, and have been playing together ever since. They play a cross section of music from traditional Irish to American country - Florence is also a very talented songwriter and has recorded some of her self penned numbers. They are super people who are a pleasure to work with, so let's hope it's not too long before they are back with us again.

The next band The Playboys have been part of the music scene for many years, playing the length and breadth of the country, and en route have shared the stage with many of the leading names in showbiz. The four well seasoned musicians (three of the originals) delivered a programme featuring classic chart hits, dancing tunes, and ballads, alongside country music. Fans travel many miles to see them and every show turns into a party, and that's certainly what we had on Friday night.

It's becoming a regular occurrence - our compere Sandy Gordon receiving presents from us! Last time he was presented with a painting of Thurso in bygone days to mark the occasion of his marriage to Isobel, and this time he received a bottle of his favourite tippie and something to drink it out of as he is celebrating his 65th birthday and has now retired. On the heads of this Sandy recently threw a retirement party. The Kate Bain Band provided the music and a good night was had by all.

Aside from Sandy there were lots of people in the club celebrating their birthdays. This included me I was presented with flowers and a bottle of bubbly so I would like to thank the committee very much.

I recently had a phone call from Liam Christie. Liam and wife Lorraine are originally local and are the organisers of the Embo Weekend. They have now decided to start a new country club in Inverness called the Ness Country Music Club, and it will take place in the Waterside Hotel. Their first show is on Saturday 17th October with music provided by Slange Ava, the next one will be on the 13th November when the band will be The Jacks. We wish them all the best and think it's a great idea - now when we are down for our shopping it will be super to have somewhere to go for country music. If you are looking for tickets the no's are 01463 811589 or 01463 793632.

You might remember a wee while back I told you about Susan McCann having a country show which went out on-line nightly between 7 & 9 pm. Well I spent nights trying to log on to it without success before it eventually got the better of me and I contacted them, only to be told by her husband Dennis that they had taken it off the air for no apparent reason and without warning. It was a great show but they have replaced it with yet another pop music show - as if there aren't enough of them already!

I also told you that Alan Jackson was playing three gigs in Europe. I have it on good authority from the Wickers that were there that it was absolutely fantastic (pouring rain or not) as I would have imagined - there's nothing like rubbing salt in the wounds. Apparently there were many unhappy fans, as the concert scheduled in Norway was switched to an alternative venue. This meant that many fans, who had bought tickets, had the choice of either a seven hour journey and finding alternative accommodation, or get a refund. Fans are outraged at the fact this was done by the promoters to sell more tickets, but they also assumed that Alan Jackson agreed to the move - everything's done these days to make money!!

Couldn't quite believe the next bit of news - the very popular top country music duo Brooks and Dunn are to go their separate ways after 18 years. Not sure of the facts but according to rumours they aren't getting on but cant believe that after all these years together. It's hard to believe that they could walk away from something so big - maybe they feel it's better to quit at the top. I will be on the look out for further details.

Speaking about people breaking up I have also heard that after 27 years of playing together as a family band, Texas Gun have decided to retire. Dad George and his two sons George Jr and Simon feel that now is the time to take life a bit easier. For the past few years they have been part of our festival as Smalltown Audio providing our sound and lighting and George Snr was our compere last year. They will be a big miss to the country music scene but I guess all good things must come to an end; however they will still be back with us next Easter.

The very successful American country musician Toby Keith is making his first UK appearance and will be at the Glasgow O2 Academy on November 9th. The ever popular Charlie Landsborough is also touring again with his most northerly appearance being at the Aberdeen Music Hall on 14th October.

Alan, our festival co-ordinator, and John, our festival director, went away to the Creetown festival last weekend. This is the event that is being shown along with ours on BBC ALBA and goes on air the three weeks after ours finishes on the 3rd Nov. They enjoyed the weekend however said the festival is totally different from ours so will be a total contrast when we see it on TV.

I am away on my travels next weekend again. Margaret and Kenny, Ally and I, along with a fairly sizeable contingent from Caithness are going to Aberdeen to the Manson Grant fan club weekend. I will give you a report next time.

Then on the Thursday, Ally and I are going to Lanzarote for a week in the sun. We're planning a lazy time but might get round to doing some of the festival paperwork, only half the battle when sitting in the sun with a glass in the hand!

The Festival 2010 line up is almost complete and tickets will be going on sale next month. Included in the programme will be, from America, Rick Trevino, Leona Williams. and Amber Digby, from Europe, Red Jenkins, and of course our local bands - we should have the others confirmed by next month.

Davie has also managed to get some great shows booked for the club next year including, in January, Georgette Jones - the daughter of George Jones and Tammy Wynette - I told you last time we saw her in Ireland and she was brilliant. So that will get our next years' entertainment off to a flying start.

I have just been listening to Caithness FM and heard the boys from Fusion talking about their newly released CD. Robin kindly donated one for our raffle on Friday night and I haven't got a copy yet, but have enjoyed the tracks I've heard on the radio. I'm sure it will be a popular present for Christmas this year - it can be purchased in many shops locally.

Well I think that's about it for now. Next months show will feature that top class band Texas Renegade from Holland who appeared at our festival, they will be supported by the ever-popular Kate Bain Band.

Until next time

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC