



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

September 2013 Newsletter

Can you believe how quickly the weather has changed as we moved into September, dare I say for the last few days there has definitely been a real Autumn feel to it and the nights are certainly drawing in.

Last Friday was our club night and this time our acts for the night were the very popular duo Western Rhythm and from Co Waterford, Northern Ireland Paddy O' Brien and his band. Not a full house but a fairly busy night with some first timers joining us alongside visitors from all over including Larry and Ethel from America and from closer to home June and Dodd from Golspie.

Western Rhythm, Ivan and John from Galashiels opened for us and as usual the very talented and versatile guys did a great job, listening to them it's plain to see why they are one of the busiest and most popular duos on the circuit.

Great to hear Ivan playing the steel guitar not often we hear that from a duo, John is mainly on keyboards but between them they also play guitar, accordion, sax and share vocals, yes they really are versatile.

The boys entertained with a cross section of music including, country classics even some Scottish tunes and then brought it bang up to date with a selection of new country numbers.

They had a fairly long and tedious trip up the road but said they enjoyed the run the weather was beautiful I thought they were sensible not heading off after the show but felt a bit sorry for them when they said they were sleeping in the van, and even sorrier when they were expecting to get pies from the bakers as they were starving and I had to tell them the bakery was no longer there.

Two really nice blokes who this time again went down very well with the crowd, rest assured they will be back with us again soon.



I couldn't believe it when one of the guys said to me that it was August 2010 when Paddy O'Brien was last in the club I swore it was last year --shows how quick the time goes by— I couldn't remember when it was but I did mind that a few folk managed to get a little bit 'merry' in the bar with him and well it was déjà a vu – not mentioning any names—

Paddy continues to be popular and has many faithful followers from across the U.K. and Ireland, he appears frequently on the Hot Country, Ireland West and Phil Mac programmes and is part of many Country and Irish holidays and weekend breaks.

Paddy and his Band covered all styles of music during the show working their way through his extensive repertoire of songs he has recorded over the years and ones from his many influences in country music including Marty Robbins and the late Slim Whitman.

Paddy hasn't a strong country voice but it's quite unique his trademark is yodelling and of course he treated us to some splendid ones incidentally he taught himself to yodel using a steel diesel tank.

Paddy recorded his first album on cassette in 1983 called *Friends* and since then has continued to churn them out regularly his last album *Forever Always* released in 2012 included the numbers *Ashes Of Love*, *Sunday Morning Coming Down*. Paddy's latest one entitled *We'll Meet Again* is due for release next month and tracks amongst others he will sing *Snowbird*, *Light Of The Silvery Moon* & *Four Walls*.

We knew what to expect from Paddy a good mix of Country, Irish and middle of the road numbers and no show would be complete without his theme tune *Never Grow Old*.

I felt sorry for them having to travel to Inverness but he wasn't in a hurry to leave he spent time chatting to everyone as they left the hall, giving all the girls a good night kiss.



A couple of weeks ago Ally and myself went to Aberdeen for along weekend which for most of the time we spent visiting and catching up with relatives but on the Friday we went through to the Station Inn, Ellon to the Derek Ryan show.

We were meeting up with Jenny and Darryn so we decided to stay the night I can thoroughly recommend it our rooms were lovely and the food and service excellent.

Former boy band star Derek studied accountancy for a while before breaking into the country business seriously when his career took off in 2011 since then he has never looked back and now he is so busy he hardly ever has a day off.

Derek is a very talented song writer and treated us to many of his self penned hits during the course of the night including his debut single *God's Plan*, also *A Mothers Son* & *Kiss Me Mary* and of course his new single *Wake Me Up*.

It was good to meet up with folk including Sandy Watt from Waves Radio who provided a country disco when Derek wasn't on stage, yes a most enjoyable night.

Last Saturday and Sunday night the very popular Nathan Crater was in Scotland and lots of people from here went to see him some to Thainstone on Saturday others to Eden Court on Sunday. The club members who went to see him in Thainstone all had on their sensible heads on Friday night leaving early and sober I didn't have to chase them home out of the hall as usual!!

I haven't spoken to any of them as yet but by all accounts on Facebook it was a great two nights I'm sure it would have been he certainly is an entertainer. Well me I was at home but was on a night out with some of the girls and we ended up in the Legion where we had a great night with George Malcolm.

I suppose you will have all heard by now that husband and wife duo Fhiona Ennis and Thomas McGuire had a baby daughter on August 15th, Sherese Tracy weighed in at 8lb 7ozs she looks beautiful saw photos of her with a very proud dad.

Maybe some of you will remember a few years back we had Jett Williams as part of our festival. Jett as you know is the 'lost daughter of the legendary Hank Williams' who died five days before Jett was born, Jett was adopted and it wasn't until the early 80's that she set about finding her true identity. Jett sought the help of lawyer Keith Adkinson and he obtained the proof of her birthright. The couple fell in love married and Keith became her manager since then they have been inseparable, sadly Keith passed away in June following a brief illness.

Speaking of illness last time I told you that Randy Travis was recovering from brain surgery and cardio myopathy he had a slight set back as he then took pneumonia. However he is now home from hospital recovering slowly and his latest album is due to be released early October.

The album is called *Influence, The Man I Am* and it contains covers from 13 artistes chosen by Randy as they have inspired him and all helped to shape his career. Artistes included are George Jones, Waylon Jennings, Merle Haggard and Lefty Frizell also a duet with Joe Nichols.

I have been looking through the lists of what's coming up and good to see there's some big country acts coming to Scotland shortly, Leeann Rimes is appearing at the Royal Concert Hall Glasgow on the 15th September and the Band Perry on 30th November at the ABC 02 Glasgow.

When speaking of paddy O'Brien I mentioned that one of his heroes Slim Whitman had recently passed away aged 89, many people have been outraged that Slim died without ever being inducted into the Country Music Hall Of Fame.

Slim was singing country songs and having hits in the charts with the likes Rose Marie and Indian Love Call long before Jim Reeves and Patsy Cline he also continued to make regular trips to Britain appearing at festivals and concerts, all sadly overlooked.

Ken Macleod a regular visitor at our festival was for many many years a country music presenter with Tay A.M. until he was recently made redundant along with other presenters from Clyde2, Forth 2, Westsound, Northsound and Tay AM.

This has happened because Bauer Media appear to be uninterested in commercial and local broadcasting they will now broadcast the same shows twenty four seven across Scotland. Another backward step, I'm sure I'm not the only one who will miss tuning in on line to the country shows.

Until next time.

Keep It Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC