



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

September 2014 Newsletter

I hope you'll understand and make allowances for me this month if I don't waffle on too long my time is very limited as hopefully by the time you read this Alan, Evelyn, Johnnie, Gina, Ally & myself will be well on the way to America.

After what I'm sure will be a long monotonous flight we will land in San Francisco spend five nights there doing all the tourist things including Alcatraz before driving down the Pacific Highway to explore 'The Streets of Bakersfield' and hopefully catch some country music. After that it's a couple of nights stop in Laughlin before heading to Vegas and our last port of call where we will meet up with Bettine & Edwin. I'm sure a good time will be had by all will tell you all about it next time – but remember what happens in Vegas - stays in Vegas.

So as you can imagine I have loads to do today not helped by the fact that we had our club night last night and were away the weekend before at the Granite City weekend in the Menzies Hotel in Dyce Aberdeen run by Lorraine & Liam and their team.

Last month I told you that Jason McGilligan was appearing in the Assembly Rooms at the Triple C Club night and that we would miss that but would catch him in Aberdeen on the Saturday night. However Jason informed that on doctor's advice he has had to cancel all gigs for the foreseeable future due to problems with his voice which requires him to rest it. This is a temporary situation hopefully Jason will be fully recovered and back on the scene before too long I hope so as we have him booked early in the year for Our Band Of The Year Award Night.

Thankfully Shaun Loughrey and the Countrysiders were free and agreed to cover Jason's Scottish gigs so now back to our weekend in Aberdeen, well for those of you who are on Facebook you have probably seen it all - there's always someone around with a camera - but you can see we had a great time fun, crack and great country music.

Following dinner on Friday night and after some music from NI Country Radio DJ's Stephen Doherty & Stephen Proctor former Indian chief, Jolene & Barry kicked off the live music. An excellent spot from them as always easy to see why after 35 years on the road together the couple are as popular as ever, we have them with us in the club at our show next month along with Trevor Loughrey.

They were followed by the Davitt Country Band from Co Wexford Joe & Brother Tommy along with their sons and nephews were the band that provided the entertainment for our Christmas show. We had a brilliant night with them then and this time was no different they certainly know how to get everyone on the floor and keep them there they never stop.



Of course sensible people went to bed but when have we ever been in that category when there's late night drinking and partying going on, however thanks to the early morning call from the fire alarm we were up for breakfast. Now some of the braver ones amongst us undertook the ice bucket challenge to get rid of their hangover Bettine and myself had contemplated it the night before but we had no hangover so were exempt but well done to the ones who saw through both days.

Ally and I went to catch up with some family so we missed seeing Dave Sheriff in the afternoon haven't seen him for many years last time was when he was doing his one man band thing.

Saturday night Shannon & The Brothers who need no introduction to us were first on stage, Robbie and the boys got us all warmed up with their selection of songs before they called up young Shannon. She is getting more confident every time we hear her and certainly has the voice to secure her a big future on the country scene. Certainly an added bonus for us was when her Mum Maggie joined them for a few numbers it may have been a while since she sang but she can still do it what a voice brilliant stuff.

Rounding the night off Shaun Loughrey and The Countrysiders they had a nightmare trip to Wick the night before they had van trouble which resulted in them not arriving until 10.00pm, so it was more or less straight on stage finished off the night jumped in the van again and drove to Aberdeen. Anyway they were back on form as we were by that time Shaun has a new Album out called Look At Us so during the course of his spot we heard it along with some of the other tracks from the album (Shaun plays for us in November). Shaun and the band managed to stay awake to join in the after - hours hooley where they gave us a song along with amongst Maggie, Robbie, Norman Borland (who has just returned from Australia during the week) so yes another late one.

Up sharp again on Sunday (well most of us) full works for breakfast away to town for some retail therapy we were that sharp we had to wait for some shops to open . After dropping Bettine and Ella back at the hotel Ally and I went to visit his brother so again we missed the afternoon spot plus the shot session!!! Disappointed I never got to say hello to Drew and Terry or Double Trouble heard they were good as was the jamming session to round off the afternoon.

Now I think everyone was waiting with intrigue to see what the Dolly & Kenny show had to offer we had seen Sarah Jayne and Andy earlier and couldn't believe the transformation when they came on stage it was uncanny. When Dolly first came on I wasn't quite sure thought she was a bit full on but once she got the crowd with her it was fine she had Dolly down to a T the voice, the laugh, the mannerisms spot on and boy did she sound like her. Sarah has performed as Dolly for 22 years and clearly spent a lot of time with her, the Dolly outfits all come from Las Vegas. Husband Andy has been Kenny for 10 years and was also very good and their duet spot together brilliant.



All good things must come to an end and our own Duke Boys certainly did a fine job bringing the weekend's entertainment to a close it wasn't easy for them it wasn't as busy as the other two nights some folk had drifted off and we were all tired but they managed to get us all up on the floor and we had a ball. Not sure about the sweatshirts but we won't hold that against them I heard folk saying they were one of the best bands of the weekend and they didn't even manage to get a dram!!

Well if anyone didn't enjoy themselves it was their own fault Loraine & Liam went to a lot of effort to arrange the weekend so I was glad it all paid off for them we thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

Club last night and a very busy one starring the very popular duo from Scotland Buzzard Creek along with Stephen Smyth, the Co Down singer and entertainer who brought our Festival this year to a close in fine form.

Willie and John from Falkirk who kicked off the night for us are two of the nicest guys on the scene and one of the finest duo's around they are always up for a laugh and bit of a crack and like to make sure the crowd enjoy themselves. The boys are very popular with the members so we have them as part of our line up most years: they put on a great show catering for all types of dances and tastes in music. The pair cover all eras of country playing current favourites along with classic standards but they also do some great Dr Hook numbers and golden oldies that you don't hear very often such as Please Stay.

How do I start to describe the star of our show it's easy to see why he was awarded the title of Most Entertaining Act in the U.K. he is the big man with a voice to match and one of the most talented and versatile musicians on the scene.

Stephen served his apprenticeship with some of Ireland's top bands gaining experience in Philomena's backing band moving on to play with the Indians, Dominic Kirwan and Declan Nerney (so that says it all) During the course of the evening he played lead guitar, steel, fiddle and saxophone and had the crowd going from the start with his enthusiasm and personality and of course his great selection of numbers. Stephen and the band played some Irish numbers which always sees the dance floor heaving along with some tracks from his latest release *Classic Country* album including *Hello Darling & Some Broken Hearts Never Mend* not forgetting his own compositions *I'm The Lucky One & Here At Home In Ireland*.

Everyone there certainly had a ball including the many visitors who joined us from all over the country two quality acts who worked hard to ensure we all had a super night and we certainly did. Next month sees Trevor Loughrey joining us for the first time (not for the want of trying) and with him the always popular duo Jolene & Barry so please book your tickets and of course for Moe the following week.



I am sure by now you will have heard that the very popular young Irish entertainer Derek Ryan is appearing in the Assembly Rooms on the 31st October which is our club night. I know that anyone can bring acts to the north whenever they like but the usual promoters would have checked with us in advance and we could have sorted something out with them and worked with them.

We asked our members last night to be honest with us and tell us how many were going to Wick so we could decide what to do about it as we could not afford to run a show we knew was going to be a big loser, but thankfully most of the members said they would turn up and support their club so thanks everyone for that.

It was even more worrying that we have Moe Bandy booked for the beginning of the month would this also affect our sales for that show. I did e-mail the promoters to let them know that it would have been better for everyone if they had worked with us so no one lost out but they weren't interested.

Regarding Moe Bandy tickets sales are very slow most interest seems to be from people from the south who realise what a great opportunity it is to see one of the biggest all time American artistes perform a one off gig in Scotland and are prepared to travel to see him. So please don't let us down come along and support because if it's a success we will do the same again in the future. I know I will be away for most of September but you can still contact Isobel on 01955 604061 for tickets or just leave a message on my answering machine ;also please let us know if you require a seat on the bus.

Those of you who watch The Smith and Rogers Show which goes out at 5.00pm on Thursdays on SKY 192 or Freesat 402 will have seen the special on James House last week. James has just finished a three week sell out tour in England: James was a popular country singer and hit songwriter in the 80's and 90's and after reading the reviews of his latest gigs it's evident he is as good now as he was then. I enjoyed the videos we saw on the show he also sang a couple of acoustic numbers clearly not the same as having a band behind him but still enjoyable. So it's no surprise that he has been booked to return again next year hopefully Scotland will be on the cards this time.

On the subject of T.V. shows I have heard not sure if it's true or not that there is a new country music video programme direct from the U.S.A. starting on Wednesday 3rd September going out again on Sky 192 at 10.00pm and Freesat 401 at 9.00 pm will keep a look out and see what happens.

Can't think of a lot of news at the moment I did hear the other day that Vince Gill has become a granddad his daughter has had a baby son : that following the Irish fiasco Garth Brooks was planning a world tour next year as is Shania Twain.

Reading the David Allan page in Country Music People Mag he said that the Norwegian star Arne Benoni, who appeared at our Festival few years ago - remember he is A BIG Jim Reeves fan, included some of his music in his spot. Well apparently he was over here recently to attend a taping of a Jim Reeves special which will be transmitted on Sky (no idea when). Arne is in the middle of a Jim Reeves tribute tour across Norway he has also released a new album which is a set of Jim's favourite's songs.

Haven't had much chance to listen to music this last wee while apart from demo's we have been receiving from bands wanting to come to the festival. One release that caught my eye was the latest from Gene Watson *My Heroes Have Always Been Country* on which he features some of the best country songs ever written adding his own touch. Standards include *Walk Through This World With Me*, *Long Black Veil*, *Hello Trouble*, sounds to me like a classic country album.

Anyway I could rabble on but think I am just putting off the inevitable packing a case so better go and get it done.

Until next time.

Keep It Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC