



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

September 2016 Newsletter

Well a few days of summer came eventually just to coincide with the kids going back to school, typical what a shame they really didn't have any summer to speak of, I've seen it better during the October break.

When reading the latest CMCD magazine I noticed a wee rant by Ann Carmody in her Highland Scene column: she was saying that promoters in the Highlands have worked hard over the years to bring country music to the north. However, at the moment, to quote; there appears to be promoters saturating the circuit with multi act shows paying total disregard to whatever else is on in the area – so what happens both attendances are depleted so no one wins- Why can't everyone work together to strengthen the country music scene; my sentiments entirely been saying it for years, this is what is putting festivals and clubs out of business.

Another interesting snippet this time from Jim Duncan (Cross Country) he wrote about the importance of having risk assessments in place when running an event for the protection of the public, organisers and acts in the event of something untoward happening. Given in this climate the on-going terrorist attacks currently targeting public events shouldn't western themed events and festivals become more vigilant. I never thought about this probably because we don't have gun fights or anyone in western dress carrying weapons at any of our events. However what Jim says makes perfect sense: people do wander about wearing weapons, firing guns wouldn't it be awful if a terrorist managed to make an attack at country festival – certainly food for thought – sad things have come to this.

More reading, this time in Country Music People and a very interesting article written by Duncan Warwick about Mark Chestnut who as I'm sure you remember made some excellent music during the early 90's including Too Cold At Home and a great version of I Don't Want To Miss A Thing. It got me thinking about all the other acts that were around at the same time; they were considered a new generation of singers but still sung country songs.

I remember being in Nashville in '94 and at that time they were promoting live music and had erected purpose built venues around Opryland to hold concerts almost every night. The list of stars were unbelievable there was Marty Stuart, Doug Stone, Alabama, Joe Diffie, Travis Tritt, Martina McBride, Billy Dean, Little Texas, Pam Tillis, Mark Collie and the list goes on. They were all big at that time we knew the acts and knew their music because we saw them on CMT, we had a ball couldn't go to them all but we had a good try. That was the same visit we had front row seats to see George Jones and when we got there it was cancelled as he had his heart bypass op – we were blaming the poor man for being a no show as he frequently was in those days – To compensate they gave us tickets to see Alabama but they just didn't have the same appeal we sat through the show very dejected.

Back to Mark he has released a new CD called Tradition Lives his first in six years containing totally new material and I have to say a great title for a good country album. Mark remains true to his roots saying "I wanted to show the world that I'm still alive and

well doing exactly what I've always done making real country music" Mark originally from Texas is considering returning there as he says "Nashville is a funny place if you're not hot or current or making someone money then they won't waste their time talking to you or even have a beer with you".

I mentioned last time that Moe Bandy was back with a new studio album called Lucky Me and he's delighted with the response he's had, I thought it great when he said in an interview in CMP "I've always said that some young singer one of these days is going to cut a real country song and everybody's going to say Wow that's neat, what's that stuff" Watching the highlights of last year's CMA Awards the other night it's not before time, ok some acts I can listen to but others there's just no way they can be classed as country. I was glad when Reba came on with Brooks & Dunn and I noticed everyone sang along and looked like they were enjoying themselves. No sign this year of Alan Jackson, George Strait or Vince Gill in the audience that to me says it all: why has the Nashville scene changed so much or is it me getting old, it was the same watching highlights from Country Fest most of it was nearer to a rock concert.

They have just announced the nominations for the 2016 CMA's no doubt they won't be any different than this year's although I noticed there are one or two surprises: none this time for Blake Shelton or Jason Aldean, record year for Eric Church he receives five nominations. Chris Stapleton had a career changing night at last year's CMA's this time he is nominated for Male Vocalist, Single & Music Video of the Year, and with wife Morgane they receive a nomination for musical event. Chris is also a contender for the big one Entertainer of the Year alongside Garth Brooks, Luke Bryan, Carrie Underwood and Keith Urban. Two new names to me in the Female of the Year line up Kelsea Ballerini & Maren Morris along with Maranda Lambert, Kacey Musgraves & Carrie Underwood.

Had a wee peek in Reba Macintyre's colonial style mansion house outside Nashville which is up for sale for \$7.9 million, it's beautiful in the grounds of the 83 acres all secluded by trees is a swimming pool, guest house, tennis courts a 16 stall equestrian facility, 5 barns. Inside are four bedrooms, gym, theatre with stadium seating, snooker table, wet bar, wine cellar and the lounges and the other rooms and lounges are stunning.

Poor Loretta Lynn is not having much luck lately normally during Labor Day Weekend she hosts and performs a concert at her ranch; however, this year fans turned up only to be told that she was forced to cancel after falling and injuring her head and chest. Not to disappoint sister Chrystal Gayle and Loretta's twin daughters put on the show saying due to the pain in her chest Loretta was unable to breathe deeply enough to sing; sadly the 84 year old is beginning to look very frail.

On August 13th Vince Gill celebrated his 25th years in the Opry it was a fun filled night when he got together with family and friends for a jam session. Joining Vince for the three-hour show was amongst others Rodney Crowell, Patty Loveless, Ashley Monroe, Bill Anderson The Time Jumpers, wife Amy and one of his daughters. When Vince was first invited to debut on the Opry he turned down the invitation saying he had a more important engagement supporting his daughter at a school talent show, lucky for us all they asked him back.

Alan Jackson has just purchased a three storey 6,000 square foot building in Lower Broadway, Nashville for a price of \$5.75 million and plans to open a bar called Good Time named after his 2008 hit; the property was previously home to a honky tonk called The Wheel.

Speaking of Nashville haven't as yet had time to watch the start of the new series maybe get a glass of wine feet up at the weekend and catch up with it.

A few weeks back we went to the opening of 'Martin's Shed' along with some of our committee members and had a ball. The only stipulation of the night was that everyone wore a piece of tartan (easily managed) and donated generously to his chosen charity Marie Curie Fund. No country music, instead we heard pipes, a duo called Tartan Specials and a Rod Stewart tribute act lots of good spirits, drinking, dancing and fun. The shed made a great venue holding probably around 300 people could be an option for some country shows in the future!! We are delighted for Martin and the family that his mum Catherine is now recovering from a very serious illness – let's hope she's back to full health very soon- Martin is one of our main festival sponsors following in his dad's footsteps he also organises P.U. football club for our bar and stewarding duties.

The following Saturday night we went along to support another good cause which I told you about last time this was the one being run by George Malcolm and wife Lynn with the proceeds going to the R.N.L.I. Barra who supported and helped the couple when Lynn's son was lost in a fishing boat accident. The event was very successful and to date they have raised over £8,000, during the day they ran a sponsored line dance marathon with teas, pancakes and stalls etc. to keep the kids occupied. Then at night there was a dance, compere for the night was Liam Christie (only he would get away with some of the things he said; good job we all know him) music by George himself, guest spots from our own Robin Young and drummer Davie (Fusion), mouthie tunes by Angie Wares and of course some great dancing music from the Dynamos. Another enjoyable night lot of hard work so I'm sure George and Lynn are delighted with the response and support they got.

Then the following week our club night and as I mentioned I missed it as I was across the water at a hen night: I won't go in to full detail but suffice to say we took Orkney by storm and then did the same in Thurso the following night.



Sadly not a great turn out this time but by all reports the regular crew who turned out all said they enjoyed their night. Opening up was our great friends from Ireland Country Features, Robbie & Florence who are two of the nicest people you could meet. Over the years the award winning duo have become regular visitors over here and travel to play in clubs and festivals all over Scotland they love playing our club and the NNCCM members love having them play for us. Clearly during that time they have made a great many fans like Jackie Craig from Oban also Angus and Pat who travelled all the way from Shetland (sorry to have missed them both)

Stevie Donnelly is Florence's number one fan and she made his night when she asked him up on stage and snuggling up closely together they sang Sailor. Now Stevie's singing may not have been the best but by all reports it was a heck of a lot better than the next trio of backing singers. Committee members Sandy & John along with Jackie Craig murdered Patsy Cline's Just A Closer Walk With Thee, no singing career for these three amigos!! and talk about bad hair days, good job Jackie has a free bus pass certainly no payment for his part in the choir.

The duo kept the crowd on the floor with their very versatile programme of songs ranging from a lively selection of traditional Irish tunes along with classic and new American Country also up beat dance numbers. Florence has gained herself a reputation as a song writer and I'm sure she slipped some of her self-penned numbers like Hand On My Heart, Alone Here Without You, Take Me Home Love Me Forever into their set. So another great night with these two lovely people who are always turned out smartly and although they like to have fun are very professional.



Up next was our own Duke Boys however they took a step back from the limelight allowing Kelly Cobbett to take centre stage. Kelly who lives in Woking in Surrey travelled a long way to play for us, she started singing when she was very young but took a break to raise her three sons. However, she is now back on the road pursuing a professional career along with her six-piece band called Boxcar Kelly & The Railroaders also going out as a duo with husband Michael. Kelly has written an eight track album of self-penned numbers called From Me To You and has enough material to launch another of originals later this year.

However, Kelly and the Dukes stuck mainly to country classics taking the crowd a trip down memory lane; she opened with the Buck Owen number Love's Gonna Live Here Again then belted out a string of hits including Silver Wings, Country Roads, Your Cheating Heart, Neon Moon and the list just went on. Kelly reckons that stars like Patsy Cline & Tammy Wynette were a big influence on her career but she also enjoys singing the music from other top female acts such as Martina McBride, Trisha Yearwood, Mary Chapin Carpenter & Carleen Carter.

Kelly has a good country voice; she is enjoyable to watch interacting with the crowd and having banter with the band making her a good front woman. She was ably backed by Nigel, Alasdair, George & Mikie they did a great job even managing to squeeze in a few numbers of their own for us. It was easy to see why Kelly is busy every weekend and her calendar has bookings in it as far ahead as 2019, the crowd really enjoyed her and she enjoyed her night with us. She e-mailed me to say thanks to you all and that she

really enjoyed her gig and despite travelling all around the country she says that our club is one of the best she has played – so well done NNCCMC for making Kelly so welcome –

Well I think that's about it for this time round.

Until next time

Keep it country

Christine