



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

April 2010 Newsletter

Time is marching on - I couldn't believe it when John Dunnett said to me on Friday night "this time in 4 weeks our first show will be well underway", I realised I had lost a week somewhere I though we had another week. My list of tasks is 3 pages long so I should be trying to get through them so I'm thinking I don't really have the time to write this newsletter, so please be gentle with me if it's rushed and a bit scrappy.

Anyway another good night was had by all on Friday night. Heather Myles was joined on stage by her band The Cadillac Cowboys, and support band of the night was Robbie and the Brothers. We had to change the format of the show a bit, both bands did 2 x 1 hour spots and dancing started pretty much from the start.

The Brothers, now a 6 piece band, started the night for us - these guys get better every time we see them and judging by the feedback this was the opinion of the members also. They literally gave us a selection of every type of music and got everyone warmed up and on the dance floor from the word go. These guys always look as if they are enjoying themselves on stage and I am sure they are.

Our star of the show was the honky tonk singer from California, Heather Myles. Heather was last in our club in 2003 and was also part of our Festival last year. She has just released a new CD called *In the Wind* - I think I mentioned it last month so, alongside some of her older material, she treated us to some of the tracks from it.

I've got the album and it's brilliant. 9 of the 12 tracks are written by Heather and I particularly enjoyed *Broke and Broken Hearted* and *Mama's Star*. She did a great job of the Wanda Jackson classic *Right or Wrong*, and despite singing the Mexican number *Vaya Con Dios* in English she had just enough rasp and twang in that voice of hers to make it stand out from other versions.

Another thing that makes her stand out from other country singers is the way she dresses - she is always very casual, nice suede jacket, jeans cowboy boots and Stetson, finished off with that nice turquoise Indian jewellery. She really looks the part.

We had a slight problem with the sound, particularly during her first spot, however I don't think it spoilt anybody's entertainment. Along with Davie Holland on steel guitar and a session drummer, Heather had her own guitarists - the guy was with her at the Festival and the poor lassie had a terrible cold she kept dopping herself all night however she did manage to sing a few songs.

At the end of the night Heather stayed around chatting to the members, despite the fact that she had to travel back to Aberdeen to catch an early morning flight to Shetland where she was playing on Saturday night. They had travelled across the Atlantic on an overnight flight then hired a car to come to Thurso, so poor Heather got quite a shock when she wouldn't be in bed that night either. Who said showbiz was glamorous!!!

Next month both bands are from nearer home. We have Drew and Terry Thompson, a father and son duo from Aberdeen who go under the name of Double Trouble. Drew is no stranger to the country scene - he has played as part of The Ruby Rendall Band, the Duke Boys and also the Brothers, poor Terry probably thought if you can't beat them join them.

Our other band is The New Gambler more east coasters - they are made up off guys who have played, or are still playing, with different bands, so you will see a few familiar faces. They haven't played together for very long, however I have it on good recommendation that they are excellent.

I was speaking to Robert Cameron from the Dynamos on Friday night and he was telling me there are still some places left on their coach trip to Letterkenny in Ireland in May. The holiday is from the 8th to 15th May on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis in a four star luxurious hotel, nice rooms, good food, entertainment nightly and great crack. The entertainment will include Philomena Begley, Ray Lynam, Shawn Cuddy, and The Galaxy Showband amongst others, if you would like further details and booking forms give me a shout on 01847 892410.

Speaking of entertainment, the Triple C club in Wick celebrate their 20th Anniversary this October. They are having a fantastic day of entertainment in the Assembly Rooms, and included on the bill will be Joe Moore, the Brothers, Nickels & Dimes, Broken Wing and Manson Grant & the Dynamos. A date for your diaries - Sat 16th October, tickets are available from 01955 604130 or 01955 605212.

They have their club night this Friday and this is their award show - I am delighted that our own Slange Ava will be receiving the honours as their Band of the Year for 2009 - hopefully I will manage to get to that myself. Their next show is on April 16th and Broken Wing will be providing the entertainment.

The Ness Country Music Club have Hillbilly Deluxe playing for them on the 27th March, and Jolene and Barry on the 23rd April, I haven't made it there myself yet - hopefully soon - but if you're in the area please go along support them in The Waterside Hotel.

I was delighted to read in the local paper last week that Keith Macleod has had one of his singles shoot to the top of the European Country Music Chart. The song *It Must Be Love* is the opening track on his CD *In My Fathers Words* so called as all 12 tracks were written by Keith's Dad David. The album was produced at Robert Cameron's studio and Keith, as well as singing, plays bass, keyboards, acoustic and electric guitar, drums and mandolin! Keith, for those of you that don't know, is the third member of the Dynamos, and also plays with Slange Ava - he must be really delighted and David proud of him.

Since our last newsletter we have had our AGM. After the formalities were over we were entertained the lounge by Johnny Quinn and had a good night. Johnny hasn't been here for a few years now - he's another one that has been playing in far flung exotic parts. Someone mentioned 10 years - I can't really believe it's that long ago although time certainly does fly. Anyway he hasn't lost of any of the old Johnny magic - it was definitely a night of pure nostalgia. Older he might be but he still has that same twinkle in his eye.

I was reading that Carl Smith had died in January at the age of 82. Carl started his career singing and playing the Opry as a guest of Hank Williams back in the 50's. He married June Carter in 1952 and they divorced following the birth of daughter Carlene Carter (who is playing the Iron Works, Inverness next Wednesday). He enjoyed a long career in country music however he wasn't inducted into the hall of fame until 2003.

I noted in Country Music People that Alan Jackson's CD *Drive* was voted as one of the Album's of the Decade, as were Amber Digby's *Music from the Honky Tonks* and Gene Watson's *A Taste of the Truth* - I couldn't agree more they are all excellent choices.

Alan Jackson has a new album called *Freight Train* due out very soon. On it he duets with Lee Ann Womack on the old Vern Gosdin and Janie Frickie classic *Till The End*. Amber Digby has also released a new CD and hopefully she will have some with her when she comes to the Festival - if it's half as good as her others then it's a winner. Gene Watson is apparently including England and Scotland as well as Ireland in his forthcoming Farewell Party Tour. Dates haven't been released yet but I think it will be August.

Dominic Kirwan has also released a new album to coincide with his current tour. It's called *My Kinda Country* and certainly a more country orientated album than he has previously released - the 14 tracks are some of his own favourite country numbers. He includes oldies like *Statue of a Fool* along with more modern numbers like the Garth Brooks hit *The River*, so it should appeal to all country lovers not just his many fans.

Did you all notice that we have added Gwenda and Liberty to our Festival line up I am sure by now you will have realised that three of the band members used to be with Shogun, the very popular band from Orkney. The five piece was formed in '96 and along with Gwenda, Philip & Ian are Andy on fiddle and Gwenda's husband Stewart on banjo. That's definitely an added bonus for you all on Friday night - we have been pursuing them for a long time but commitments make it difficult for them to play anywhere other than Orkney. If you haven't got your tickets yet there is still time - phone Bettine on 01847 892624. I know for a fact you wont have to wait very long to see them after that they are playing in the club for us in April.

Anyway speaking of the Festival I better go and get on with some work!

Until next time,

Keep it Country

Christine

Christine Gray
Chairperson NNCCMC