



Northern Nashville Country Music Club

January 2016 Newsletter

Like me I am sure that by now Christmas and the New Year is fast becoming a distant memory, we spend weeks planning and it just goes.

We had a lovely Christmas spent two days with the family eating, drinking, playing games and trying to get to grips with the latest toys, then repeated it all again the following week. New Year seems to have been very quiet for everyone - first footing is certainly dying out... you hardly ever see anyone going around with bags of bottles, it's now all house parties and family do's.

We never managed to get to any of the dances in the Legion either on Christmas Eve or Hogmanay, Manson Grant & The Dynamos were playing on Christmas Eve, and Fusion with Robin Young our regular club attendee and Caithness FM's Sunday night presenter of country music providing the entertainment on New Year's Eve. I think a fair crowd turned up at them but not anything like it used to be... they used to be sold out and a waiting list for tickets.

We certainly got off lightly weather wise compared to some parts of the country we did have heavy rain early in January which caused localised flooding in many areas. However, watching these poor souls who had to leave their homes over the holidays it was terrible seeing all their belongings and personal possessions ruined things which can never be replaced.

We did manage to get to the Triple C's Christmas show and thoroughly enjoyed it we hadn't managed to attend many of their nights last year so it was good catching up with our Wick counterparts who made us very welcome. They had a full house for their night so that was good but as we said we have good shows every month which would be great to see more folk supporting them. Strangely another thing we noticed was there were lots of people there from Thurso who never attend our club and vice versa we get Wick people coming to our club who don't go to the Triple C.

It was an excellent night The Dynamos were on top form getting the crowd on the floor straight away then keeping the party going making it nice and Christmassy it was good to hear them again haven't seen them since the Festival.

Since getting back into the swing of things after the holiday period has felt very strange for me and quite a novelty to find I have some time on my hands. January and February is usually a hectic time working flat out getting on top of all of the Festival advertising and work. However, I haven't been idle I have been helping Alan in his attempt to complete funding application forms, some of which are a nightmare 27 plus pages long along with documents and evidence letters to accompany them. Why do they make these things so complicated; probably in the hope you'll get fed up and not bother completing them. If we knew it would be worthwhile it wouldn't be so bad, still nothing ventured nothing gained - got to remain optimistic in the hope we get funding for a 2017 Festival.

It seems ages since we had our Christmas Show so we hoped by the end of January everyone would be ready for a night out listen to some great music this time of year can be a hit or a miss for us and sometimes governed by the weather.

We kind of knew in advance that a good few people would be missing myself and some of our crowd included the reason for this that we had booked to go to the country weekend in the Kingsmills Hotel Inverness. We booked this way back at the beginning of last summer after speaking to Mike (Broken Wing) who said he was looking for support trying to get residential weekends established in the Inverness area so needed this one to work. So we thought we would give it a go nice break in January and also I feel it's important to support others who are trying new ventures I moan plenty when others don't support us.

I felt really bad when I discovered it was on the same weekend as our show and asked the guys if they would consider changing the date of our Club by bringing it in a week. I thought it might work given it was a few weeks since the Christmas show and we will have our A.G.M. plus a show a week apart in February also I knew a few members would be missing so numbers would be down. However, I was outvoted so that was that so I'll get no prizes these days for perfect attendance. I was vexed to be missing Angie & Davy again thoroughly enjoyed them last time they played for us: love her voice and her choice of music haven't heard Janey Kirk live before and like to hear something new.

As expected we didn't have a big turn out the Kingsmills, Burns Suppers, terrible weather and always lots of bugs going around at this time of the year all contributed however by the feedback I heard the ones there enjoyed their night.

Poor Angie was suffering from a frozen shoulder so wasn't playing guitar and felt lost without it, she was ably accompanied by Davy Adams on steel; he certainly makes it look so easy, his solo Blue Eyes Crying in The Rain was superb. Together they rolled out both oldies and modern country hits all night Boot Scootin Boogie, Old Flames, Guitars and Cadillacs to name a few. Angie who started out playing guitar and vocals with her well known dad John C was a regular visitor to the north before having a 23 year break to raise her family Shannon, Abby and Chay. She admits on returning to the circuit many years later there are big changes with many clubs closed down but still remembers some "well kent faces" in the ones still surviving. Angie has just finished recording an EP for which she is currently doing cover photo shoots in the hope it will be released by mid-February.



The guys said it was great to have a five-piece band on stage backing vocalist Janey Kirk, Davy Adams also sat in with them contributing to a great sound. Janey has only been with her band a short time and sadly there were slight sound problems during their first set they struggled to hear Janey over the band. But technology being what it is they got things sorted for the next set scary how they can control sound nowadays from a tablet !! not so long ago we thought that was something you took for a headache. Janey gave them her renditions of some great oldies, also brought things up to date with billboards current top 20 numbers and songs written especially for her. Some of the good old classics like Banks of the Old Hio & Somebody Done Somebody Wrong Song tripped of our Sandy's tongue as he sat singing along on the side-lines. Janey from East Wymss in Fife is working hard filming some new Janey Kirk Shows; Sky 261 will be repeating her first 13 shows to be followed soon by her new ones, however meantime she is currently enjoying being away from the studio and on the road.



We left home on a very stormy wet and windy Friday to go to Inverness for Mike's country music weekend, after settling into our very luxurious rooms we met up with the others to have a few drinks and bar meal before the start of the entertainment. Great to see Mary B and Paul Gallagher back on the road and they were as good as ever they played two brilliant sets they sang some new numbers but along with that I was delighted to hear some good old classics from their early albums which had everyone singing along with them. Mary despite now being a granny is as young looking as ever in fact neither of them have changed a bit; hopefully we will see them back in the club again soon, they have fond memories of NNCCMC and were asking for everyone.

Sean Corrigan from Co Fermanagh was supported on stage by Broken Note and together they played two spots and certainly got the crowd going covering all kinds' music ensuring the dance floor was heaving. As I've said before Sean is a super guy with a great voice who doesn't get the recognition he deserves he has a genuine love of country music growing up listening to the American greats which influences his choice of songs for the night. He had everyone in stitches when he gave us impressions of his Irish counterparts including Stephen Smyth, Mick Flavin & Jimmy Buckley he certainly has them to a tee. Sean had brought his parents across with him they had a blast and boy could they jive: Sean said he was looking forward to seeing us all again in October.

Caitlin a young lady from Newcastle Co. Down was backed on stage by the very talented Baton Rouge or as some of you might know them as The Ryan Turner Band and they closed the show on Friday night. Caitlin is not very long back on the scene after taking time off to have her family and this was the first time I've heard her live and enjoyed her performance despite it being a more sedate spot than some of the others.

Woke to a snowy morning and after a leisurely breakfast and swim we were raring to go again; the afternoon session was kicked off by Nicky James poor Nicky always seems to land the unenviable job of getting the crowd going but he manages despite being on his own. Mary & Paul played their second spot before Caitlin took to the stage again where she gave us much the same routine as she had done the night before. After a short break we were served a very tasty three course dinner and then on again for the final part of the show. Nicky again started things off covering a wide range of material familiar now to us all he kept the floor busy throughout managing to get most of us on the floor in a big circle to finish things off.

Mike and Lenny or FlameZe as they are now calling themselves played a spot poor Mike struggled through despite having no voice due to a very bad cold and cough thankfully they managed to carry it off good to hear some new material from them. Ryan Turner and the boys also played a spot in their own right calling Robbie Petrie up to perform a few songs from his current album which was produced in Ireland by Ryan. All too soon in was time for Sean to finish the night which he did in great form leaving the crowd shouting for more - all in all a very well organised weekend I'm glad it proved a success for Mike who was a bit anxious before it started - we met up with lots of old faces good to catch up with them many of whom were asking what they were going to do over Easter!!!

I mentioned our A.G.M. earlier; to confirm we will be holding it in the Legion on Saturday 20th February at 7.30 pm, I realise it's later than normal and only the week before our show (again my fault). Despite that we do need a good turn out to discuss the way forward for NNCCM due to a couple of worrying aspects. We have circulated some questionnaires to our members who have been at the last couple of shows and sent some out to members who haven't been attending the Club recently for whatever reason in the hope of getting some feedback. By the time of the AGM we will have studied the responses and have clarification of what the members want for their Club and how they want us to proceed in 2017.

I noticed on some website the other day that Nancy, George Jones widow, had recently sold their Tennessee home, there were pictures of it and I have to say and it looked fabulous. It stands in 25 acres of land has 4 bedrooms, a swimming pool, a 7-car garage, and 2 guest houses and it sold for the princely sum of \$1.9 million dollars. Did you all remember about the new Phil Mac programme which launched January 25th on SKY 261 and screened 24/7 I did but as yet have not had much time to watch very much of it. Lisa Stanley has her own programme on it as do Joni Harms and others; until they have finished recording new shows they are screening repeats of programmes we have seen on various Sky channels in the past. Also on the station is Caithness Music Television from our own Robert Cameron's Pan Records where he will be featuring artists from the north and east of Scotland along with acts from the southern belt - exciting stuff—

I read that Dolly Parton in a competition run by UK's Country Radio .com has been named as the Greatest Lady in Country no surprise really considering she has had 25 gold platinum and multi-platinum albums released 100 singles over the last 40 years from her albums of which 25 songs have reached no 1 on the country music charts -- a record for a female artist -

Loretta Lynn came second, her work spans more than 60 years during which she has gained more awards than any female artist across any musical genre.

Patsy Cline, despite being killed in a plane crash in 1963 came in at 3rd place classed as the most influential artist of the 20th century. Next was Reba then Miranda Lambert, Tammy & Shania were also high in the ratings and Martina & Suzy Bogus also contenders.

On the subject of Dolly who celebrated her 70th Birthday on January 19th (must admit she's pretty good for that) the film Coat of Many Colors was released recently telling her life story growing up in the hills of East Tennessee as part of a large loving family and the background around the patch work coat made by her mum which helped make Dolly what she is today.

I'm sure like me you all listened when Liam and Loraine interviewed Geordie Jack on North Highland Radio on that dreich wet Sunday afternoon it was just what was needed to brighten things up. An excellent programme as we relived some great memories through music and chat charting Geordie's musical journey from the very early days up to the present. As you would expect Geordie was just a natural to interview he told some cracking stories not all of which we had heard before, listened to some great songs many from the good old days but others from his newly released album Choices. Geordie is all set to play in Eden Court Inverness on Saturday 6th February it's another charity event think it will be a show much and such along the lines he did in the Pentland, this time it's in aid of the Highland Hospice. Tickets were sold out very quickly proving how delighted everyone is to see him back on the scene: sadly I won't manage that one either we have something else on that weekend.

For the ones who are not following the blog written by Rory Feek keeping us up to date with how things are going with wife Joey and her battle against terminal cancer. It breaks my heart every time I read it she is such a courageous lady thankfully she got her wish to be part of her family Christmas but it appears she is getting more tired and weak - such a shame they are being so brave.

Rory told us amongst all the pain and sadness in December there was a little piece of joy when the couple's song If I Needed You was nominated in the 2016 Grammy Award list in the Country Duo/Group of the year category. The same section includes Little Big Town, Blake Shelton, & Ashley Monroe all will be revealed on February 14th good luck to the pair they certainly deserve it.

Was reading the latest Country Music People Magazine edition and every year they ask their writers and people who are well known and versed on the country music scene to choose their top ten album releases of the year. I think I probably told you this last year but I find it quite interesting since I know some of the contributors and their taste in music so some of their choices come as no surprise. In top place with her album Dancing Your Memory Away was Myra Rolan another excellent artist who records on the Heart of Texas label if we were having a Festival we were considering Myra on our line up) Runner up was Ashley Monroe with The Blade, despite being a very modern album it sounds quite traditional at the moment Ashley is a very under rated artiste but I have a feeling that will soon change. Following that there were several albums all with the same amount of picks these included Alan Jackson, Willie Nelson & Merle Haggard for their Django and Jimmie offering, Bob Manning and Kimberly Manning and Artie Rodriguez. Delighted to see Jason James getting a mention I am just loving him at the moment playing his album constantly -- another who would have been on my list for the Festival-

I noticed that the Glen Campbell documentary film I'll Be Me was shown again mid-January I thoroughly enjoyed it when it was screened the first time so hope some of you

managed to watch it. Sadly, Glen still seems to be having ongoing problems with his Alzheimer's disease - he is having communication problems and his wife has now taken him home from the care home he was in as she says "she is unsure just how much longer she will have him for" he has now moved into the final stage of this terrible illness.

Speaking of people being poorly Curtis Potter one of the great western swing artistes who records under the Heart of Texas label was admitted to hospital mid-January suffering from heart failure and C.O.P.D he had a triple bypass op in 2006. Curtis started his long career way back in the 50's after joining the Hank Thompson show. His first hit was You Comb Her Hair Every Morning followed by many more including Turn Me Loose Let Me Swing a no 1 with Willie Nelson in 2005. Curtis was also one of the Survivors alongside Darrell McColl and Tony Booth, and we were lucky enough to hear him when we attended the Snyder festival in Texas a few years back. He did improve for a while but sadly passed away on Saturday 23rd January.

Another good old timer with serious health problems is 83 year-old Mel Tillis: the singer songwriter with the famous stutter and dad to country singer Pam Tillis. Mel suffered serious complications after undergoing colon surgery he is now out of the woods but still very poorly with a lengthy recovery in front of him.

Sadly, on the 18th January, founder member of the Eagles Glen Frey passed away aged only 67 after fighting complications of rheumatoid arthritis, ulcerative colitis and pneumonia tragic news a very talented man.

Merle Haggard has also fallen ill with another bout of pneumonia which again has forced him to cancel gigs he remains cheery spending his time following the presidential campaign don't think he's impressed with Trump --- that's enough to give him a relapse---

Another old timer forced to cancel his recent tour is Don Williams he has just had hip replacement surgery we forget they're all getting on the old sayings true 'Who's Gonna Fill Their Shoes'.

Well I think that's about it for now got a busy time ahead this coming weekend we are away to celebrate Michelle's 30th birthday come back on Monday and on Tuesday Bettine and myself travel to Glasgow to meet up with two of our friends from that area and we are away for a girlie week in the sun. Not sure if himself is pleased at being left behind but I could write a list of things he could do to stop boredom creeping in. We are back on the 17th in time for the AGM and then our show looking forward to seeing Justin McGurk again and George Macintosh who you will remember from his days with Arizona Flame now a solo act.

Until next time

Keep it country

Christine