

Dates for your Diary

Home Grown Workshop

Sat 21st April 11-3pm

Gig in the Goil

Lochgoilhead Village

11th-13th May

'Folk a Concert'

Strachur Mem Hall

Sunday 13th May 7.30pm

End of Term PARTY

Strachur Mem Hall

Wed 23rd May 6.30pm

Kyle Carey Concert

Strachur Mem Hall

Sunday 27th May

2.30pm

Dunoon Scottish Music

Workshop

Fri 13th-Sun 15th July

Jazz in the Village

Strachur Mem Hall

Sun 22nd July 2.30pm

Royal National Mod

DUNOON

12th - 20th Oct

Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop

Newsletter
Spring 2018

@ Strachur

Home Grown Workshop

Thanks to workshop member, Maureen, we organised our first 'home grown workshop' which turned out to be a tremendous success!

Players from Oban, Lochgilphead and Dunoon as well as Strachur arrived, not knowing what to expect. Instruments included fiddle, mandolin, guitar and concertina. Our workshop friend and luthier, John Kelly, was our 'morning tutor'. He had prepared harmonies for the Gaelic waltz, 'Teann a Nall'. We enjoyed learning the melody and the harmonies. You can hear us at: <http://www.fiddleworkshop.co.uk/first-of-many-2>

After lunch we played many of our old favourites.

Near the end of the day, Dave Dunlop on concertina, taught us a Donald Riddell tune, 'The Snipe'.

It was a lovely, inclusive, convivial day.

Our 2nd Home Grown Workshop is on

Saturday 21st April, Strachur Mem Hall 11-3pm.

John has been working on another tune, preparing 2nds and 3rds. If you have a tune in mind for the day, please bring it along.

More info Tel 01369 860499



Christmas Events

The workshop was quite busy in December! We were invited to play for the Youth and Drama group in Strachur Memorial Hall to celebrate the village Christmas Lights switch on. Accompanied by Cathie Montgomery on keyboard, we played Christmas carols and had an enthusiastic audience singing along. Thanks to all who took part and thanks to Strachur and District Youth and Drama Group for inviting us.



Christmas parties took place on Wednesday 6th December with the Junior Workshop starting off. Party games, tunes and eats. This talented group of youngsters also gave a short performance for their parents.



Christmas cont'd

In the evening the Adult Members held their end of term Christmas party; a great turn out, good music and a delicious spread. We also gave a small gift to each of our tutors, Kathryn Bailie and Mairi Voinot.

Thanks to those who donated to **Dunoon Food Bank**.



Fyne Fiddles Review

I attended the Fyne Fiddles workshop, Ardkinglas House on 3rd December 2017. I decided to go for one day only, break myself in gently. What a good day it turned out to be. Amy Geddes is an amazing tutor, patient, motivating and so knowledgeable in teaching methods. She was assisted by Donald Knox on guitar and Sarah Northcott, fiddle tutor.



We had quite a mixture of playing abilities. Me, wanting the easy option as ever, went with Sarah and the lower intermediate class to begin with. She

was an extremely patient and encouraging tutor. We mastered the tune, 'Burnbank Cottage' composed by Catriona Hawksworth. A nice 4/4 march. I felt encouraged and confident so moved into the more advanced class! Amy and Donald were teaching a tune, 'Iris' in B minor (I think!) Composed by Adam Sutherland. By the end of the teaching session we sounded rather good although I was knackered!

The evening was a night to talk about. The tutors put on a wonderful recital to a full house. This was followed by the launch of Amy and Donald's book and cd, Fyne Fiddles vol 1. If you haven't got your copy yet, get in touch with Amy. <http://www.amygeddes.co.uk>
Looking forward to the next workshop.

Evie

Edinburgh Fiddle Festival

You may remember one of our Junior members, Skye Beautyman, auditioned and was accepted to perform at the "Siubhal" (traveller), the Outreach Programme of The Scots Fiddle Festival in Edinburgh.

Here is the second part of her adventure.

"After my audition I met with my band "Suibhal" and our band supervisor Eilidh Steel six times. We met for fun, four hour, tune filled workshops where we made friends, learnt tunes and arranged sets.

One week we were at a recording studio, where we recorded a set of jigs to go on iTunes and it let us experience recording equipment.

Our finale was a performance at the Queen's Hall in Edinburgh for the Scottish Fiddle Festival. We were all super nervous about playing and speaking in front of a large audience, but no major issues came up, which was brilliant! Afterwards we got to watch other performers (a bit more professional than us) and overall the whole thing was an amazing experience, which I would definitely do again".

Skye

Burns Supper

Having got the taste of 'doing it ourselves', Maureen suggested we have our first Burns Night! Who would address the haggis, we asked? Guess who? and she was brilliant!

Even with the kitchen dripping in steam, tatties and neeps up to our armpits and puddings galore, we still managed to have a fantastic night!

With music, song, food and even a dram who wouldn't have a good night? There were guitars, mandolins, mouthie and concertina. We played many of Burns tunes and were delighted to have Alison Duncan, John Kelly and John Thomson sing.

Do I hear you say 'Roll on next year'? There is talk of St Andrews Night but that's a bit away yet.

More photos on the website

www.fiddleworkshop.co.uk



Royal National MOD

12th - 20th October 2018

This year the National MOD, considered the world's most prestigious Gaelic music festival, will be held in our very own Dunoon. The importance of promoting Scotland's vibrant, living indigenous heritage of traditional music and song within our own community and demonstrating that it is a recognised and valued part of our national identity is vital. The MOD is great fun - lots of sessions and events - a feast of music and culture for a week on our own doorsteps. I urge all members to support this music festival.



Mod cont'd

The benefits of competitions such as the Mod, are many.

Competitions motivate entrants to perform and excel, and offer rewards beyond the straightforward hope of winning the prize. They also offer a chance for participants to showcase skills, uncover personal aptitude, overcome performance fears, gain helpful experience, and to receive invaluable analysis and evaluation of their playing. Competitions also encourage participants to adopt innovative techniques and develop their ideas and skills.

All levels of ability can participate. We will be supported by our tutors and also have guitar and other instruments playing in the group. Two, or is it three, years ago a group of us

participated in the National Mod in Oban. We had a very rewarding experience and it was quite a buzz to take part.

Let me know if you would like to be in the workshop Mod group. Evie

The Tune Book

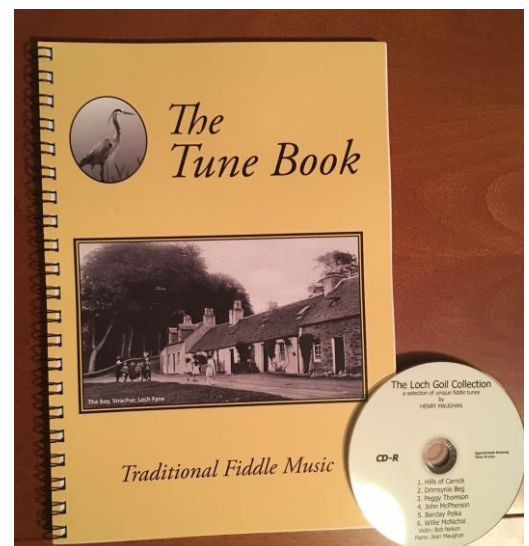
Traditional Fiddle Music

The long awaited Tune Book finally made its appearance towards the end of Summer 2017 - just about 5 years after Mike Vass made the suggestion to us, and 15 years since the establishment of LFW.

Thanks to everyone involved in the development and production of the book - and apologies if 'your' submitted tune did not make it into this edition! As it is we have included a few more than the proposed one hundred tunes - and a fair number are waiting in a file for a future committee to produce a 'second tune book' - perhaps for the workshop's 20th anniversary?

The material included in the collection is intended to reflect those taught by our tutors, plus tunes members have brought to share with the group; we have included tunes from many of the places our players have come from in Cowal and Argyll, and there are compositions by several local musicians past and present. Perhaps members who have their own Tune Book could bring it along to the Home Grown event on Saturday 21st and lead off with one or more favourites from the collection? Just a suggestion!

You may be wondering why there has been no book launch party - well the tune-book was so attractive that every copy was snatched up immediately!



We do have a single 'sample copy' left for anyone who would like to peruse it and if there is sufficient interest (perhaps 25 advance /prepaid orders) we / next year's committee might organise a second edition?

Despite our best proofreading efforts there are still a few wee errors, so if you spot one please give me a note of which page / what the correction is, so if there is a 2 nd edition it will be perfect!

ALISON

Folk a Rant

**Concert Strachur Memorial Hall
Sunday 13th May 7.30pm**

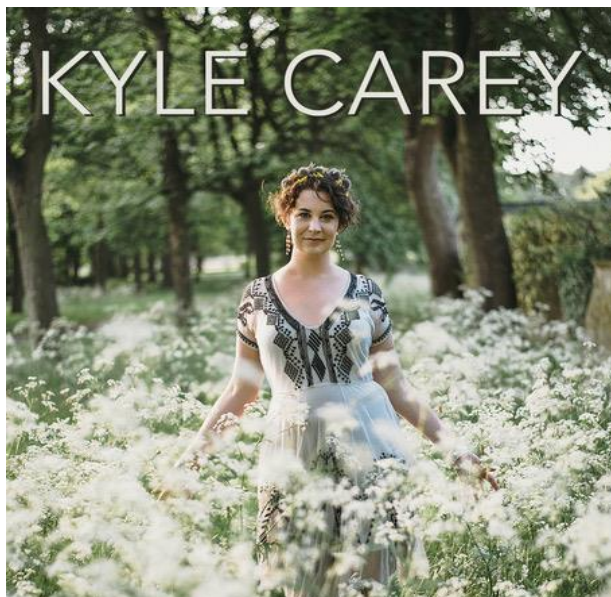
Featuring Sophie Ramsay and Sarah Smout.

Sophie is a singer song writer from Perthshire who combines original songs with traditional folk. Sarah Smout is a cellist/singer/songwriter.

I'm sorry I don't know much about this duo but it looks interesting

Kyle Carey in Concert

**Strachur Mem Hall
Sunday 27th May 2.30pm**



27 May 2018 2:30PM

STRACHUR MEMORIAL HALL | STRACHUR, ARGYLL
Adults £10; Age 12-16yrs £4; <12 free

Tix: Strachur Post Office, Strachur Filling station &
Bookpoint Dunoon. Or call: 01369 860499 / 07826227338

Kyle Carey was born in New Hampshire USA, and lived in Yup'ik native communities in the Alaskan bush until the age of seven. She attended Sabhal Mòr Ostaig on the Isle of Skye for a year, obtaining a certificate in Scottish Gaelic language and music. Kyle began her professional career in Ireland and recorded her debut album Monongah, a mix of Celtic, Appalachian folk, and literary elements that would become the trademark of her unique 'Gaelic Americana' style. This will be a concert not to be missed!

More info

<http://www.kyleannecarey.com>

Tickets £10 adults, £4 12-16 yrs. Under 12 free.
Available from Strachur Post Office and Filling Station and Bookpoint, Dunoon
Proceeds to the workshop.

Jazz in the Village

**Strachur Memorial Hall
Sunday 22nd July 2.30pm**

Ian Miller on soprano or tenor sax and Dominic Spencer on piano. A superb duo, talented and refreshing. This duo's performance includes a small number of "jazz standards" but most of their programme features original compositions by saxophonist Ian Millar. An afternoon concert to relax and enjoy. Tickets £10. Tea, coffee included.

More info <http://www.millarandspencer.co.uk>

Regular Events

McClures Thursdays in McClures Pub, Ferry Brae, Dunoon.

8 - 10'ish, in the back room. Mixed instruments including fiddles, guitars, mandolins, accordions and small pipes. All ability ranges are catered for.

Check with Martin Donovan, owner, before going.

Tel. no. 01369 704888

Glasgow Fiddle Workshop (GFW)

Very Slow Session held twice a month in the Cafe Siempre (162 Dumbarton Rd, Glasgow, G11 6XE). It is run by Finlay Allison, tutor of GFW. It's usually the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month but check their website before heading off. www.glasgowfiddle.org.uk

Tunes and music also available on the GFW website.

Ardkinglas Events

For information on all events check

info@ardkinglas.com

Tel 01499-600261

Advance booking essential.



Came across these in Glendaruel. Think they belong to a heron! (the other ones are mine!) Evie

Dunoon Burgh Hall

The newly refurbished Dunoon Burgh Hall is open to all as a creative, cultural hub for Cowal.

The historic B listed Dunoon Burgh Hall is now a fully accessible venue for exhibitions, performances and gatherings. Alongside a gallery and theatre, the venue offers creative workshop space, a garden and a cafe.

The restoration of Dunoon Burgh Hall is an inspiring story of a small Scottish community coming together to preserve its rich cultural heritage. The building was rescued from demolition by the community, who worked with the John McAslan Family Trust to purchase it from Fyne Homes housing association in 2008 for a token £1.

Since then The Dunoon Burgh Hall Trust and staff have worked to raise investment to restore the building. It reopened in June 2017 with an exciting program of activities and events.

There are regular music sessions held in the café.

For more information and to see what's on?

<https://www.dunoonburghhall.org.uk>

Information & News

END OF TERM PARTY

NB CHANGE OF DATE

NOW WEDNESDAY 23RD MAY 6.30PM

STRACHUR MEM HALL

ALL ADULTS AND ACCOMPANIED JUNIORS WELCOME

Websites

Here are a few websites that may be of interest:

www.fiddleworkshop.co.uk

www.handsupfortrad.scot

www.tracscotland.org

www.ardkinglas.com

www.glasgowfiddle.org.uk

www.strachursmiddy.org.uk

www.thesession.org

www.visitcowal.co.uk

www.cantalibre.de

www.nigelgatherer.com

www.thesession.org

www.celticconnections.com

www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

www.mudcatcafe.org

www.dunoonburghhall.org.uk

Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop Facebook pages:

Closed group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/225069111284178>

Public group:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/982772851824826>

Also check out Kathy's Facebook site

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/heyfiddlediddle>

Committee Contact Details

Chairperson: Alison Duncan allylininside@googlemail.com

Treasurer: Teresa Hunt-Earle thuntearle@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary: Evie Campbell evie.campbell@fiddleworkshop.co.uk

Are there any sessions, folk pubs, forthcoming events, or photos that might be of interest? Or have you been to any summer workshops? A few words about them would be appreciated. Send to Evie by email.

Copy deadline for next Newsletter Friday 1st July 2018.

Registered Scottish Charity No. SCO33935

Places to eat in and around Strachur:

Creggans Inn, Strachur

01369 860279

Out of the Blue Bistro, The Bay Strachur

01369 860221

Inver Cottage, Strathlachlan

01369 860537

Ardentinny Hotel

01369 810126

Loch Fyne Oysters, Cairndow

01499 600264

The George Hotel, Inveraray

01499 302111

Fiddle Maintenance

John Kelly offers a fiddle maintenance service at reasonable rates. John can be contacted by email:

jkargyll@gmail.com

He also builds mandolins and repairs guitars.

Get Well Messages

Since our last newsletter two of our members have suffered broken ankles!

John Kelly composed a tune for Maggie Adams. He named it 'The Slippery Path' (aka Maggie's Downfall!) when she arrived late for class after slipping on her garden path. That fall caused no great injury. However, she had another fall in the autumn resulting in a broken ankle. Don't think any of us, for one moment, thought the tune would be named so appropriately!

I'm glad to say Maggie has made a good recovery.

Recently (end of March) Maureen Brankin was cycling along the Crinan Canal when she went to the rescue of a man who had fallen in. Unaware the grass was so slippery, she ran to his aid only to slip and fall on the muddy grass embankment. She broke her ankle in two places. Fortunately she did not require surgery.

Oh! And the man was fine!