

Traditional Fiddle Workshop @ Strachur

Newsletter
Dec 2015/Jan2016

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC033935



Dates for your Diary

New Session

Classes start
Monday 11th and
Wednesday 13th
January, 2016

Celtic Connections

Bigger than ever and
with something to
suit everybody.
Various venues
around Glasgow.

14th - 21st Jan 2016

All details at:

www.celticconnections.com

Inverness Fiddlers' Rally.

19th march 2016

See flyer and item for
details.

Cowal Community

Orchestra - this
newly-formed group
meets on Sundays
from 2- 4 in Sandbank
Church Hall. All
players, of all abilities,
welcome. For details
contact Gordon Blair
at:

havenfiddlers@sol.com

Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship

I attended this year's Glenfiddich at Blair Castle on the last Sunday of October. This is probably the most prestigious competition in the world for Scottish Traditional Fiddlers. The eight young players are invited to compete because of their performances during the past year, so you can imagine the standard!

The entrants this year included last year's winner Mari Black from the USA and another former winner (2011 and 2012) Maggie Adamson, who hails from Shetland. Maggie has actually deputised for Siobhan as tutor here at LFW ! The other female competitors were Shona MacFadyen and Hannah Dickson. A late entry, replacing one of the competitors who had to call off sick, was Eilidh Anderson from Tarland and Eilidh is to be commended on her excellent performance, especially as she was only asked to take part a few days before the competition and was abroad on holiday!

The male entrants were teenagers George Davidson and Jack Westwell from Scotland and Tim MacDonald from the USA. Tim is the 2014 US National Scottish Fiddle Champion and all of the competitors are seasoned performers with lots of trophies amassed among them, and all so young too!

Each competitor played three sets of tunes which highlighted all aspects of Scottish playing, including Slow Air, March, Strathspey and Reel, Slow Strathspey, Jig and Hornpipe. One of the three sets had to be selected from the music of this year's named composer, William Marshall, who lived from 1748 – 1833 and is considered one of Scotland's foremost composers of fiddle music. If you have not heard of him, look up his compositions on the internet.

Accompaniment was provided on piano for seven of the eight players while Tim MacDonald had brought in a cellist to accompany him in his recital. Following the competition and while we awaited the judges' verdict, we were entertained to a great impromptu session by all eight fiddlers and the sheer enjoyment they displayed after the pressures of the competition was so obvious to all of us in the audience.

At the end of an enthralling afternoon ably compered by the inimitable Robbie Shepherd, judges Paul Anderson, Maurice Duncan and Peter Zanre were unanimous in their choice of the three award winners. In third place was last year's winner, Mari Black. In second place, and adding to her previous successes, was Maggie Adamson. This year's worthy winner was nineteen-year-old George Davidson from Tarves in Aberdeenshire.

I recommend the trip to the Glenfiddich Masters to all of you who have any interest in hearing, and watching, the very cream of our young Scottish players. For £10 you get a great afternoon of top-class playing, a beautiful programme and each member of the audience leaves with a complimentary miniature of Glenfiddich Malt Whisky!

John Kelly

Merry Christmas!

On Wednesday, 9th December, we held our Christmas parties. Outside, the weather was wet and windy but inside Strachur hall, all was well.

The children's party was great; they have so much energy. Pass the Parcel, Grand Old Duke of York and Farmer's in His Den were enjoyed not only by the youngsters but by the committee members too! The Fiddle and Bow round the room game was also very popular; youngsters scurrying round the hall in search of the next word to complete the game. The party was so busy I forgot to take any pictures! Each child left with a chocolate Santa and the traditional tangerine.

Despite the bad weather there was a good turnout for the adult members' party. We played many of our old favourite tunes and one or two newer ones. Enjoyed chatting and eating. We had a Secret Santa and everyone looked very pleased with their gift. I know I was. There was an extra present so we had a game of musical statues; the winner won a gift box of Fyne Ale beers. Well done, Mike!

Many of you, children and adults, handed in donations for Dunoon Food Bank. I would like to thank you all for supporting this worthwhile cause. Thanks, also to everyone who helped out at both parties.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!

Evie

Ardkinglas Christmas Concert

Choice, I'm spoiled for choice - attend the new Cowal Community Orchestra rehearsal in Sandbank Church, or head for the 'Rant' concert at Ardkinglas; want to do both... Oh well, choice made! Orchestra rehearsals are every week; the 'Rant' event is a one-off (and anyway I've booked my place!)

The music room at Ardkinglas was full, with regular supporters and a good number of local fiddlers keen to hear Lauren MacColl, Sarah-Jane Summers and Shetland sisters Jenna and Bethany Reid.

Each is a talented player both solo or in their various bands, first playing in their Rant quartet in July 2012. They are a powerhouse of amazing tunes, harmonies and arrangements. Their repertoire for the Ardkinglas concert included some of their own compositions as well as a range of traditional and contemporary music. They held us captivated for the best part of two hours – and not a piece of manuscript in sight!

Inspirational for 'by ear' players and for all who value not only great fiddle music but great music!

Ardkinglas hosts a number of musical events during the year, ranging from classical through blues, jazz and traditional. Attendance is by invitation, so for further information and to be put on the mailing list, contact info@ardkinglas.com.

Alison Duncan

Inverness Fiddlers' Rally - Saturday 19th March 2016

Inverness Fiddlers Society are delighted to inform you that our 2016 Rally will be held on the above date slightly later than previously, in our usual venue of Eden Court Theatre in Inverness.

As for the 2015 Rally, we wish to invite members of all other Societies who are interested to join us for the event. To assist with planning, as there is a limit to the numbers that can be accommodated on the stage despite its large size, it would be most helpful if you could advise me as soon as you are able of who from your Society would like to attend, and what instruments they would be playing.

The Waterside Hotel (Tel: 01463-233065, www.thewatersideinverness.co.uk) have indicated that discounted rooms will be available for Rally participants wishing to stay with them. Rally tickets for anyone wishing to accompany players can be obtained from Eden Court Theatre (Tel: 01463-234234, www.eden-court.co.uk); early booking is advisable.

Further details are also posted on our website at www.invernessfiddlers.org

I look forward to hearing from you in due course.

dave@tiderace.com

Dave Greer

McClures

Thursdays in McClures Pub, Ferry Brae, Dunoon.
8 - 9.30ish, in the back room. Mixed instruments including fiddles, guitars, mandolins, accordions and small pipes! All ability ranges are present, so don't be scared to come along!

Check with Martin Donovan, owner, (intermediate class) before going.
Pub tel. no 01369 704888

GFW Prepare for the Pub

Very Slow Session second Sunday of the month in Curler's Rest, Byres Road. 7.30 - 9.30pm. This is run by Finlay Allison, who recently took a very successful workshop here for us at LFW (Strachur).

Learning Tune Session last Sunday of the month Hillhead Sports Club 7 - 9pm.
Both sessions are led by tutor Finlay Allison.
All acoustic instruments.
Donation £4.00 to Glasgow Fiddle Workshop.
Tunes and music available on the GFW website www.glasgowfiddle.org.uk Best check before each session and Traffic Scotland website for whether the roads are open.
Maybe share lifts?

Information & News

Websites

Here are a few that may be of interest:

www.fiddleworkshop.co.uk

www.visitcowal.co.uk

www.ardkinglas.com

www.strachursmiddy.org.uk

www.tracscotland.org

www.glasgowfiddle.org.uk

www.cantalibre.de

www.thesession.org

www.mudcatcafe.org

www.handsupfortrad.scot

Also check out Kathy's Facebook site 'Hey Fiddle Diddle'.

Committee Contact Details

Chairperson; Evie Campbell

evie.campbell@fiddleworkshop.co.uk

Treasurer; Teresa Hunt-Earle

thuntearle@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary; John Kelly

john.kelly@fiddleworkshop.co.uk

TMSA

TMSA festival guide is available for those who want to plan their weekends and summer schools. You might find a copy in the brochures stands at mainline stations, or Glasgow Royal Concert Hall; or check Traditional Music and Song Association of Scotland to request a copy.

Strachur Smiddy Museum

Closed for the winter.

A few of our members have enjoyed small get togethers here and are looking forward to playing again in the spring.

Class room etiquette

Hope you are all enjoying the new season of classes and getting plenty of practice! Spring term Classes resume week beginning 11th January 2016, usual times and venues. And a warm welcome to all new members.

Just a wee reminder about playing by ear.

Learning by ear means learning by listening then copying. Looking is also important.

When we are listening to the tutor playing a tune or phrase students need to hear what is being played. It is easy to get caught up in one's attempt to play a tune without heeding what others are doing. This frustrates our aim of playing by ear as a group. Please listen to others, and keep an eye on what they and the tutor are doing, and enjoy. Thanks.

Chairman

Fiddle Maintenance

LFW member John Kelly offers a fiddle maintenance service, reasonable rates - also free advice! John can be contacted by email

jkargyll@gmail.com

N.B. He also builds mandolins and repairs guitars.

John has now taken over responsibility for the newsletter - apologies for this issue as I am using Evie's existing templates and cutting and pasting as I go! Apologies too for lack of material!

Are there any sessions, folk pubs, forthcoming events, or photos that might be of interest? Send to Evie or John by email.

Copy date for next newsletter

January 30th 2016.

INVERNESS Fiddlers' Rally

2016



*Inverness Fiddlers plus Special Guests
Bryan Gear & Violet Tulloch with
Fiona J Mackenzie*

Empire Theatre, Eden Court
Sat 19th March 2016 at 7.30pm
Tickets £15/£13 from Eden Court Box Office
Tel: 01463-234234 www.eden-court.co.uk