

LOCHGOILHEAD FIDDLE WORKSHOP



Registered Scottish Charity No SCO33935

NEWSLETTER

Issue 12

January 2012

WORKSHOP NEWS

Session 2011-2012 Classes

Tutor Mike Vass

CLASSES RE-STARTED JANUARY Tuesday 10 / Wednesday 11 (did you remember?!)
Classes run from 11 / 12 January for five weeks till February mid-term (15 / 16) then another five weeks till Easter break (NB Guest tutor for about 3 weeks after midterm – see below for reason!)

NB It is a good idea to keep your membership booklet with timetable and committee contact details somewhere handy as class dates are more variable this year from previously!

Mike Vass is now a **member of the Paul McKenna Band**; check them out at Celtic Connections on **Thursday 26 January in the Strathclyde Suite** of the Royal Concert Hall (details on CC website or brochure) – check the Paul McKenna band website for details of other gigs and forthcoming tours. (Mike will be on tour in USA in mid-February / early March, so we will have a guest tutor for LFW classes for two or three weeks - ----!

New Album – Mike and Ali Vass ‘Waiting to Fly’ is being released on 18 January; cds available from Mike directly meantime (*ask for an autographed copy!*) or shortly thereafter through his website. The album features some of Mike’s own compositions including ‘Adam and Ali’s waltz’.

Not sure what’s happening with the material from the decemberwell project – you can check Mike’s website or wait till next month when I’ve done so!

Private Lessons Anyone interested in booking a private lesson with Mike in Glasgow please contact him directly (before or after your class or by email)

Postponed Christmas Party / Raffle: Evie recently emailed all members to tell you that there will be a FREE DRAW of the remaining raffle items, winners to be selected in a couple of weeks by Mike Vass who will draw the names from a hat (*we thought it was getting a bit late to try to hold the postponed Christmas party!*) Good luck!

Committee – snapped by Michaela!



Alison
(chair, newsletter)



Evie
(Secretary)



Sheena
(treasurer)



Sabine
(website design)



Lorna



Ishbel



Annie



*could this be you?
E.g. newsletter editor?*

Website

Sabine is organising our updated website; we will have both our original domain names www.fiddleworkshop.co.uk and www.fiddle-workshop.co.uk – *at the moment these names still take you to the Fiddle Folk site which we have been using since our former dedicated LFW site vanished.* Sabine plans to effect the transfer within the next few weeks, build the new site - and will be seeking your ideas and input, photos and so on. We will also need people volunteering to be trained in managing the site so we have more than one person with the expertise, share the load.

One useful benefit will be that Mike can upload music onto the site which you can then print off at home, won't be such a disaster if you miss a class!

I hope I am correct in saying that you'll also be able to listen to the tunes online?

Look for an update on this in next month's newsletter!

10th Anniversary

We need YOUR input as we develop our ideas for celebrating LFW's first decade. It is important that we do not clash with other local events (food fair / highland games / fetes / festivals/annual charity fundraisers etc.) so – please have a think about your local area (Tighnabruaich, Dunoon, Lochgoilhead. Inveraray, Strachur - -), what other clubs and organisations have planned - and what might be happening nationally that might attract people away from what we have planned – and let us know asap; this will assist us in selecting the best dates available.

Fiddles: repair, renovation, strings, buying and selling, advice (also other stringed instruments e.g. guitar/mandolin/banjo/bouzouki etc.)

Contact **Brian Fogarty** on 01369-703510 or 07974-492504

Last month's advertised fiddle has been sold, thanks for your interest. Brian currently has fiddles and guitars for sale – enquire on above numbers.

Guide for Violin / Fiddle Care and Maintenance

The following is the first in a series of mini-articles on the care of your fiddle – it can be a bit scary doing anything to your instrument, even when you are no longer a novice, and it is important when you do feel confident about tackling some basic tasks that you do it correctly! We hope this information will help you to understand how your fiddle works, and *what not to do* - meantime please ask Brian or Mike for help, *especially with tuning the pegs /adjusting bridge / changing strings*; gradually you will gain understanding of how to do some of these tasks yourself.

We intend to run some ‘hands on’ fiddle maintenance sessions in future, e.g. tuning, string changing, basic cleaning - meantime read on, and if you have any questions please don’t hesitate to ask Brian, or email me* and I will pass the Q on to him. (*Alison)

Care of your Fiddle 1: TUNING

Instruments are tuned using the *tuning pegs* and the *fine tuners*; the pegs (at the top end of the fiddle) are for making extreme adjustments, the small metal fine tuners (at the lower end of the strings) for making small final adjustments.

Fine tuners should generally be kept in the *middle range position*; if a fine tuner is most of the way in or out reset it to the middle range position; then use the peg to tune the string to the correct note, and complete the tuning with the fine tuner.

NB Pegs must never be forced – if they are too stiff to move easily, or they slip and won’t hold, ask Brian to check and fix.

Always make sure the bridge is not leaning forward after tuning; this can be corrected by placing your thumbs on the back side of the bridge (*fine tuners side*) and your index fingers between the G and D (*left*) and A and E (*right*) strings. *Gently* ease the bridge back into the correct position. – The back side of the bridge should be at 90 degrees to the plane of the top surface of the instrument.

Check the bridge position once a week, as tilted bridges will eventually become warped and may even snap, or fall over and damage the instrument.

Most bridge problems occur when loose strings require to be tuned up. As the string is being tuned the top of the bridge is pulled forwards towards the fingerboard; if the position of the bridge is not corrected the pressure of the strings can eventually warp the bridge. Similarly so may repeated tuning using the pegs cause the bridge to warp or fall.

EVENTS THIS WEEK

MOD

Who attended the Sunndach ceilidh yesterday (Saturday 14)? - It would be good to have a report please - -!

The next scheduled event is the Children's Ceilidh on Friday 17 February at Dunoon Grammar School (19.30?) the March event is still to be advertised but might be the amazing Atomic Piseag (Gaelic for kitten!) so watch out for that in the local press, check posters or phone Angela 01369-702978 or Calum 01369-202559 for details.

Whistlefield Fiddle Session – ‘third Thursday’ 19th January 20.00 onwards

Whistlefield is on winter opening hours till Easter, so if anyone feels like a meal before the session, food is currently 17.30-20.30 on week nights. It is best to phone around to see who else is going on these long dark nights; don't forget that you can get a session going any time (after the diners have finished!) so if Friday / Saturday / Sunday suit you better, speak to each other and head to Loch Eckside for a few tunes. (Don't forget – there is a bunkhouse as well as letting bedrooms, so you might fancy booking yourself in for an overnight stay - -best check in advance in case it is busy!)

If you don't know who to ask, give me a phone / text (Alison – details on last page)

www.whistlefieldinn.co.uk 01369-860-440

Future ‘third Thursday sessions: 16 February 15 March 19 April

Kames Hotel session - Friday 13 and Friday 20 January (*see below for further details*)

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Fiddle Passion – Saturday 21 January, Cottier Theatre then Celtic Connections

GRCH Sarah Naylor's Fiddle Passion events have become a regular feature – don't worry if you have not managed to attend previously, check the website and the facebook page for all the information and music you will need to do your homework and participate! The event is open to all abilities, quite a number of LFW members attend so ask around the classes for info about the format / to share transport. Everyone who has been raves about the experience! Why not take the plunge, give it a go?

Whistlefield Doon the Watter Folk Club – Friday 3 February

‘First Friday’ of every month from 20.00.

There is a large sing around / play around in the dining room, **but smaller impromptu sessions can generally be found (or started!) in one of the other spaces (green room, blue room, etc.**

Future first Fridays: March 2 April 6 (Good Friday) May 4

Kames Hotel acoustic session – every Friday 21.00- 01.00

This session is open to all musicians and singers (or listeners) Speak to Eileen, Lorna, and Anni for further info. (They all live in Kames / Tighnabraich area)

(Contact the hotel for possible accommodation deal if playing/singing at the session)

FUTURE EVENTS

Celtic Connections 2012 January 19 – February 5

Pick up a programme at the GRCH, or check the Celtic Connections website.

There are lots of fiddle concerts and events, **plus weekend workshops and tasters** – try some of these out! I fancy *Music of the Spey* at St Andrews in the Square, which features the first two tutors of LFW – Amy Geddes and Anna Wendy Stevenson. Also *The Captains Collection* with some of Blazin Fiddles (from memory - -check the programme) and of course our **own Mike Vass featuring in the Paul McKenna Band concert 26 January.**

Ardkinglas Concert - 19.00 Saturday 18 February 2012: Simon Bradley Trio

Featuring three award winning multi-instrumentalists Matteu Watson, Simon Bradley and **Anna Wendy Stevenson** (a former tutor of LFW!!!). They play fiddles, viola, mandolin, banjo and guitar in a polished, lush and dynamic sound. Places must be booked in advance!

Contact Ardinglas to be placed on their mailing list, receive an invitation to this event.

01499-600261

info@ardkinglas.com

Feis Gleann Albainn / Fort Augustus Feis February 2012 (midterm weekend)

Ask Clair, Kathy and (I think Aileen?) For advice, or for a poster / list of tutors / info check out

www.feisgleannalbainn.co.uk

www.moragslodge.com

Yla Stephen tutoring at Cowal Fiddle Workshop 25 February 2011

Non-members of CFW may attend this and other 'visiting tutor' workshops at a fee of £10.00 for the day (there is no additional payment for Comm. Ed membership in this case)

The teaching is done from printed sheet music and will cover many more tunes than a 'playing by ear' workshop would in the same length of time, so non-readers might find it difficult - however it is worth a try, you will probably find that because you can pick up and remember the tune by ear, you can then follow it on the music.

The tutorial session lasts 150 minutes; players take along a sandwich and have a cup of tea at the interval. **Further information about times and other visiting teachers will be available later – or have a word with Bill Carlow, Advanced class.**

Hugh McGilp – private lessons From time to time Val organises a day of private lessons in her house at Strachur. These can be 1 to 1 or shared with someone of same ability as yourself; you can opt for half hour or one hour.

Contact Val for details / to put your name on the waiting list for next time) 01369-860-309

NB Val I am waiting for your report on the last Hugh McGilp day - -!

Fiddle Frenzy – Shetland August 2012 Ask Maureen for info, or check her previous report

Tutors' websites – one of these says I'll trawl through them and include these emails / websites – unless someone feels inclined to do this for me?!

REPORTS

NONE have been forthcoming of late – this is YOUR newsletter, please send me some input - photos, thoughts, events you have attended - -Celtic Connections, Fiddle Passion?

HEY FIDDLE DIDDLE

Kathy Cameron has created this new **Facebook Group** for fiddle and local news, views and events. Check it out, join up and share your information! Open to all, good way of sharing info

KIST O' RICHES (the scots for Tobar an Dualchais) can also be found on Facebook as well as their website (listed below)

WEBSITES

There are many websites and forums (what is the plural of that - fora?!) dealing with all aspect of folk and traditional music – please let me know if you have come across any interesting ones. Here are a few that may be of interest:

www.footstompin.com

www.mudcatcafe.org

www.nigelgatherer.co.uk

www.thesession.org

www.fiddlepassion.com

www.tobarandualchais.co.uk

www.cottiers.com

www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

www.elphinstone@abdn.ac.uk

www.cantalibre.de

www.traditionalmusicforum.org

If you wish to remove your name from our email list or if you have any questions please contact – Allylininside@googlemail.com or call 01369-705796 or mobile 07776-073-196

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Copy date for next newsletter = noon on:

Friday 10 February

(Items to Alison Duncan)