

LOCHGOILHEAD FIDDLE WORKSHOP



Registered Scottish Charity No SCO33935

NEWSLETTER

Issue 11

December 2011

WORKSHOP NEWS

Session 2011-2012 Classes

Tutor Mike Vass

STOP PRESS: CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY 10th POSTPONED DUE TO WEATHER

NO CLASSES TILL JANUARY Tuesday 10 / Wednesday 11

Christmas break from beginning of December till end of first week in January; classes run from 11 / 12 January for five weeks till February mid-term (15 / 16) then another five weeks till Easter break

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!

St Andrews Night Hamper*

Mike Vass

Second prize

Fiona Page

Third prize

Linda Morpurgo

**See below for money raised for club funds*

Christmas Party Raffle

Party / raffle postponed till after break – weather!

Congratulations to our tutor Mike Vass who has recently joined the Paul McKenna Band; look out for them at Celtic Connections on Thursday 26 January in the Strathclyde Suite – check the Paul McKenna band website for details.

Committee

1 Three new committee members volunteered to be co-opted during November - welcome (and thanks!) to Lorna Macrae, Annie Stewart and Ishbel Fraser.

(contact details are at the end of this newsletter).

We are looking forward to their ideas, experience and contributions, especially as we gear up for the 10th anniversary year of LFW

The committee is also looking for *your* thoughts and suggestions, as well as volunteers to assist with organisation / publicity and anything else that needs doing!

2 Forward Projections – we hope you have had a chance peruse these (*sent out with the minutes of the recent committee meeting*) and jot down your thoughts. While it is always good to have the support of non-playing members (some of whom have been / will return to be players in future we hope) in order to be able to fund the tutor / hall hire/ public liability insurance for the current four classes we need playing (i.e. fee-paying) members. 30 would be good, 35 amazing and 40 – fandabidozy (ideally reasonably distributed among the classes - -!)

So if you know of anyone who might be interested in joining / returning to the workshop, or a person who might like to learn fiddle, or maybe someone who used to play, might have their interest re-kindled - - why not see if you can persuade them to come along to one of our events, give it a go? A few additional members would make a big difference to our club's financial wellbeing! (Plus you wouldn't have to buy so many raffle tickets!)

3 Treasurer Sheena Anderson has kept a note of money raised by our own efforts since May 2010. The total so far is:

<i>From donations from performances, raffles, Summer Workshop</i>	£593.30
<i>Money raised from St Andrews Hamper raffle</i>	£109.00
<i>Total</i>	<u>£702.30</u>

Thanks to everyone who contributed in whatever way, whether by performing (at Strathlachlan / Inveraray / The Smiddy), buying raffle tickets / donating prizes, attending the Summer Workshop etc. Excellent result! This money provides backup for items that are out-with the allocations of our income from annual membership and tutoring fees.

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

Coming soon from Brian - a series of short articles on fiddle care and maintenance

If you have any questions regarding your fiddle, please send it in and the answer will appear in the following month's newsletter.

FOR SALE: Antique fiddle 4/4, labelled 'Strad. copy', Czech. circa 1900. Flamed maple back, minor scratches as you would expect in an instrument of this age; two repaired cracks on belly. Set up ready to play with brand new Tonica strings and new pegs; sounds good, very resonant.

Fiddle: £100 OR Fiddle with new carbon fibre bow and new/modern case: £165.00

Contact Brian - details above.

Apologies for my error in 'Newsletter Xtra recently – I got the correct date of the Mod ceilidh (19th) – but I thought that meant the Friday evening, hence my haste in posting it out - - -sorry if anyone was inconvenienced? - Best things would be *to print off that newsletter then post the Mod letter (page 3) with (correct) dates of future Mod events on your wall!*

- Anyone want a job as newsletter editor --?

EVENTS THIS WEEK

MOD fundraising ceilidh – Park Hotel, Saturday 10th (?? I think) with Gunna Sound

Hope I haven't got that wrong, check the posters / phone Angela 01369-702978 or

Calum 01369-202559 or the hotel to check!! (*Mod newsletter says 12th - a Monday- - -*)

STOP PRESS Hugh McGilp will once again be offering private lessons at Val's house in Strachur this Sunday 11 December (daytime). These are open to any players of all abilities; you do not require to be a member of a workshop (CFW/LFW) – whoever is interested! As I write there is one hour left available, which can be booked by a single player, shared by two people of similar ability, or could also split into two separate half hour lessons. (*See report page 3*)

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

Whistlefield Fiddle Session – ‘third Thursday’ 15th 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.

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: 19 January 16 February 15 March

(N.B. Celtic Connections January - - -)

Kames Hotel session - Friday 16 December (*see below for further details*)

OTHER REGULAR EVENTS

Whistlefield Doon the Watter Folk Club – Friday 6 January

‘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.) **A GOOD WARM UP FOR CLASSES WHICH START NEXT WEEK!!**

Future first Fridays: February 3 March 2 April 6 (Good Friday)

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 live in Kames / Tighnabruaich area)

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

FUTURE EVENTS

Celtic Connections – January – February 2012

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 Ardkinglas 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.*

Ostel Bay Picnic and Play - - - One of these days - - - - probably in the Spring?

– Could be part of our celebration of the **club's tenth anniversary series of events!**

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

Tutors' websites

Past tutors of LFW are Amy Geddes, Anna Wendy Stevenson, Fiona Dalgety, Sarah Naylor and current tutor is Mike Vass These fiddlers can all be found on the web, gigs /festivals/ workshops they may be doing, so check them out - and then let newsletter editor know if there are any events near Cowal!!!

REPORTS

Hugh McGilp lessons in Val's house Sunday 20 November

From time to time Val invites Hugh McGilp over to Strachur to tutor individual or shared lessons in her house; the most recent occasion was Sunday 20 November, when Hugh came for 5 hours-worth of teaching. Fiddlers from a range of abilities and a variety of backgrounds (LFW / CFW / other) presented themselves to work on whatever type of tune or aspect of playing that they found challenging. For some it was a daunting prospect, however Hugh is an encouraging tutor and supports the student with harmony on fiddle or keyboard. Altogether an enlightening and encouraging experience!

Anyone who is interested in having a lesson (half hour / one hour) on a future occasion please let Val know, She attends advanced class on Wednesdays, or you can give her a note of your phone number / email if you would like her to contact you next time.

St Andrews Night / End of Term

We had a pleasant social gathering in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday 30 November, the last night of this term (*NB it is the Tuesday night classes' turn next time!*) Evie had done most of the organising of the food and beverages, card and pressy for Mike and best of all the magnificent raffle! Thanks to everyone for their great contributions to the hamper(s), and for buying tickets, to the 'class monitors' who collected the items in, Ishbel for selling tickets/ organising the raffle on the night, Sheena, Anni. Lorna, Sabine and everyone else who assisted in any way with setting out, clearing up etc. But most of all to yourselves for coming along and being confident enough to start off some tunes, join in the playing.



Something strange with my camera settings - funny colour balance?

Christmas Party

After the horrible stormy weather and with frost 'n' stuff forecast we decided to postpone the party till after New Year, date to be decided (don't want to clash with Celtic Connections!) There are still some great raffle donations left which were to be used at the party – we will keep them safe and sound till then!

The Smiddy

Strachur Smiddy photos (thanks to Catherine Montgomery)



Sarah Naylor's Fiddle Passion – November

Val has allowed me to browbeat her into doing a report on this which I hope to feature in January's newsletter – meantime why not check out Sarah's fiddle passion Facebook page for further info and how to access the tunes. Fiddle Passion Orchestra is open to everyone - the ultimate aim is to have the whole world playing these tunes in the biggest orchestra ever!

Valley of the Moon fundraising or Mairi Voinot - Mum Gillian tells me that Mairi's aim when she started fundraising was to earn £2,000 - - and since the most recent event at Lochgilphead she has managed to boost the total to £3,000! Brilliant – Valley of the Moon here she comes – with half the amount for the following project raised already! Thanks to everyone who has supported these events – and if anyone who went to the Lochgilphead one would like to send me a wee report in - - ?

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 – Allylinnside@googlemail.com or call 01369-705796 or mobile 07776-073-196

Committee contact details

Chairperson:	Alison Duncan	Allylininside@googlemail.com	01368-705796
Newsletter:	“	“	“
Treasurer:	Sheena Anderson	seanndarach@btinternet.com	01369-860188
Secretary:	Evie Campbell	evie.cam@hotmail.co.uk	01369-860-499
Committee 1:	Sabine Weiten	Sabine@cantalibre.de	01369-703484
Committee 2:	Lorna Macrae	lornapoint@hotmail.cco.uk	01700-811-228
Committee 3:	Annie Stewart	anelize_1@sky.co.uk	01700-811-027
Committee 4:	Ishbel Fraser	mail@ishbelplus.com	01369-860-611

Copy date for next newsletter = noon on: Friday 9 January

(items to Alison Duncan)

HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON TO YOU ALL!

Remember - the 1st of January 2012 is the start of our 10th anniversary year; all ideas and offers of help welcome. The committee is working on a variety of events and ways of celebrating - please let us know what you would like to see happening! Meantime - spread the word amongst all former members, friends and supporters of Lochgoilhead Fiddle Workshop,