

2016 Newsletter, Issue 4



As we head towards the festive season, we offer all the best wishes for it - however you are choosing to celebrate it and hope you have been enjoying our 50th anniversary! If you have any news, photos or events you would like to share, please get in touch!



National News

We're back at Celtic Connections in 2017

We get a second chance to celebrate the re-issue of Norman Buchan's seminal song book '101 Scottish Songs', in partnership with Collins....

101 Scottish Songs - The Wee Red Book 2!

**Friday 21 January 2016, 7.30pm,
St Andrews in the Square, G1 5PP**

We are currently organising a second concert of fine singers from around Scotland, including Aileen Carr (pictured) who was unable to make the first concert due to illness. First published in 1962, the book has been a welcome returnee to the scene and has inspired Collins to republish other books such as *The Songs of Robert Burns* and *Tartans & Highland Dress* (see overleaf for how to get your TMSA member discount on the books). If you want to catch up on the first concert from this year's Celtic Connections, the DVD is still available from the shop page on the TMSA website. It would also make a great gift for a fellow traditional song lover or yourself! Tickets for the '101 Scottish Songs - Wee Red Book' concert will be available soon on www.celticconnections.com or phone the Box Office tel: 0141 353 800 for details.



Also check out The House of Song, 10.30pm, every Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday night of Celtic Connections A warm welcome awaits at the House of Song hosted by Doris Rougvie in a peaceful oasis at the Holiday Inn Theatreland, just across the road from the Concert Hall.

TMSA Young Trad Tour update!

Remaining dates and venues for the TMSA Young Trad Tour 2015:

23 November Cresset Hall, Dumfries; 5 December Mareel, Shetland; 13 December Sabhal Mor Ostaig, Skye and 21 December Victoria Halls, Dunblane. Details of how to book on the TMSA website or call the office. The Tour CD is now available to buy/download.

The 2016 group will be performing at **Celtic Connections on Saturday 4 February, 1pm, Strathclyde Suite, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall**. The line-up is: Mohsen Amini, Jessica Burton, Robbie Greig, Claire Hastings, Hannah, Murray Willis and Ryan Young. Sharing the bill is Feis Rois & Lauren MacColl: The Seer - certainly a concert of two great halves!

Our congratulations to:

Ella Munro, Scots song (Skye)
 Dougie McCance, bagpipes (Glasgow)
 Kim Carnie, Gaelic song (Oban)
 Iona Fyfe, Scots song (Huntly)
 Charlie Stewart, fiddle (Perthshire)
 Grant McFarlane, accordion (Paisley)
 who have reached **the finals for 2017**
 which will be taking place at **Celtic Connections on Sunday 5 February**.



Those who attended the semi-finals in early October (which were then broadcast on BBC Radio Scotland's Travelling Folk programme for the first time) did not envy the judges' (David Francis, Stuart Cassells, Rona Wilkie, Scott Gardiner, Maeve Mackinnon and Iain MacInnes) job of having to select these final six young musicians!

☆☆☆ Price deal for TMSA members ☆☆☆

50% discount for TMSA members off the price of the '101 Scottish Songs/Wee Red Book'

or **'The Songs of Robert Burns**
 or **'Tartans & Highland Dress'**

or **all three Wee Scottish Books** reprints,
 courtesy of Collins.

Use the voucher code **TMSAWEE50** when
 bought through www.harpercollins.co.uk



Currently valid until the end of 2016, and includes free P&P!

Back to Blairgowrie Concert Saturday 27 August

A packed house helped the TMSA celebrate its 50th anniversary in Blairgowrie - back where it all started with the first Blairgowrie Folk Festival in 1966.



As you can see from the original leaflet it featured many key figures of the time. The TMSA was born from the decision to create an organisation to continue the festival. In 1967, the second outing introduced a young Aly Bain from Shetland and showcased another great fiddler, Aonghas Grant Snr.



A similar respected line-up took part in the 2016 concert. Founding TMSA members Pete Shephard, Davey Stewart (who received his Honorary membership at the event) and Jimmy



Hutchison were joined by Archie Fisher, Sheena Wellington, Doris Rougvie, Kenny Hadden, Gillian Frame, Joe Aitken and Aileen Carr - all with connections to the TMSA and its progress through the years. Simon Thoumire performed as well as presented the TMSA with the new Landmark Award from Hands Up for Trad! Plus there was a celebratory Cloutie dumpling courtesy of Jan Miller, along with her magnificent creations of traditional music legends.



A number of the founders of the organisation were on stage and in the audience, reliving old memories as well as creating new ones.



Offstage, there were many other significant individuals in the story of the organisation and traditional music in general - including Maurice Fleming, Scots Magazine journalist and key local for the Blairgowrie Festival, both in its infancy and throughout. Also in attendance were local MSP, John Swinney, as well as the brother and sister-in-law of Ian 'Jock' Hunter whose legacy helped the TMSA put on the concert.



Photos courtesy of Martin Forry.



Branch News

Aberdeen Branch

Aberdeen Branch had a busy October with two very successful Doric Concerts in October at the Cookney Village Hall and Finzean Village Hall. Both concerts were much enjoyed and featured many talented young performers as well as those who were not so young! Irene Watt led a 'come and sing trad' singing session on 9 October and on 30 October they had a slow music session, led by Sandy Tweddle.

Their next event is the **St Andrew's Ceilidh** afternoon on Sunday 27 November at Garlogie Hall. They don't normally have a guest at this ceilidh, but as it is the 50th Anniversary year of the TMSA, they decided to ask Sheena Wellington, one of Scotland's leading traditional singers, and a Patron of the TMSA. The ceilidh starts at 2 pm and finishes tea-timeish! Admission is £5 payable at the door or £2 if you are willing to do a turn - singing, playing, poetry, storytelling - whatever your talent is. Children have free entry.

Angus Branch

It is fitting that what is effectively the first event in the 51st year of the TMSA was the Festival in Kirriemuir, as it is the direct descendent - via Kinross - of the first one held in Blairgowrie in 1966. It was even more fitting that the winner of the Willie Scott Cup for Men's Traditional Singing was Jimmy Hutchison, the very first winner when competitions were introduced in



1969. Shirley Watt, Aberdeen Branch's Secretary, was the worthy winner of the women's singing. It was encouraging to see so many in the singing competitions, with the judges having a tough day with 24 competitors over all the groups (Photo shows the singing prizewinners). The 35th festival also had good attendances at the formal events, ceilidhs and sessions, including a one-off film screening of *Where You're Meant To Be* as part of our opening concert. Another special event was a talk given by Pete Shephard and Jimmy Hutchison on the founding of the first Blairgowrie Festival. Yet another successful festival, and everyone is looking forward to next year.

Competition results for the Kirriemuir Festival 2016 are:

Fiddle

Junior - Kit Storm

Senior - George Davidson

Local - Kit Storm

J F Dickie Trophy - George Davidson

Continued on next page

Accordion Junior - Abbie Christie

Ceilidh Band - Abbie's Angels

J F Dickie Trophy - George Davidson

Accordion Junior - Abbie Christie

Ceilidh Band - Abbie's Angels

Singing

Men Senior - Jimmy Hutchison

Women Junior - Sophie Hunter

Women Senior - Shirley Watt

Bothy Ballad - John Dickson

Local Singer - Gillian Heath

Novice Singer - Erika Cragg

Mouth Organ - Dennis Shepherd

Jews Harp - Matt Donaldson

Melodeon - Sandy Mathers

Concertina - John McCourtney

Oral Whistle - Pat Newman

Diddling - Geordie Murison

Senior Storytelling - Jane Chalmers

Doric Verse

Senior - Dennis Shepherd

10 and under - Jodie Christie

11-16 - Cassia Findlay

Prizewinners Concert Overall

Winner - Jane Chalmers

Edinburgh and Lothians

The Edinburgh & Lothians Branch have their **Annual Session** from 3pm on Sunday 13 November in partnership with the monthly Traditional Song and Tunes session, which meets regularly in the Canon's Gait on the Royal Mile - as part of the **Carrying Stream Festival** organised by the Edinburgh Folk Club. It will be preceded by the Branch's AGM at 2pm. The session celebrates the life and times of Hamish Henderson though attendees are welcome to sing or play anything of their choice!

Next year we have our **Muckle Sing** on Saturday 25 February at the Queen Margaret Hall in Linlithgow and we are pleased that Corrina Hewat (pictured) will be our tutor. The daytime event runs from 10am – 5pm, with one morning and one afternoon workshop, a "Performance Platform" for regular or ad hoc groups to do a set of 2 or 3 songs and the day will be rounded off by a short performance by Corrina. The event is open to singing groups and individuals. Booking details will be available at www.eltmsa.org.uk soon. Thanks to West Lothian Council for their funding support.



Photo: Lieve Boussauw

Next year's **Northern Streams Festival** of Scandinavian and Scottish music is currently being organised, with provisional dates being 21-23 April. Again more details later!

Glasgow

The Glasgow branch held its annual cruise along the canal to Kirkintilloch again in July – this was the 10th anniversary of this event - and again, very well attended with a waiting list for tickets. Much singing and eating took place with a few liquid refreshments thrown in despite which



nobody was forced to sink rather than sing, although some made great efforts in that direction!! The turn around at the Stables Bar & Restaurant was accomplished and the merry throng returned safely to Glasgow. Next year's cruise is on 29 July and you can book ahead with Graham Charlton on 07740782404 or email asc.gc@sky.com now.

Keith

Recently held its AGM and are in full flow of organising next year's event which is 9-11 June. And the results from this year's competitions are:

Accordion

Senior - Lesley Nicol

Junior - Duncan Ritchie

12 & under - Abbie Christie

Fiddle

Senior - George Davidson

Junior - Rosie Winchester

10 & under - Rosie Murray

Best (12 & under) - Rhiann Matthew

Mouthie - Denis Shepherd

Diddling - Iona Fyfe

Recorder

(12 & under) - Cassie Findlay

Group - Cassie Findlay & Keryn Stronach

Poetry

7 & under - Kirsty Simmers

10 & under - Chloe McWilliam

13 & under - Dodie Simmers

15 & under - Eilidh Simmers

Group - Keryn Stronach & Cassie Findlay

Senior - Joint Gary Stewart & Doug Stewart

Traditional Singing

9 & under - Abbie McWilliam



Photo: The Chorus Cup Competition at Keith.

Keith results continued

- 12 & under - Dodie Simmers
- 15 & under - Molly Riddell
- Mens Singing - John Dickson
- Bothy Ballad (Senior) - Bill Gray
- Bothy Ballad (Junior) - Stuart Veitch
- Womans Singing - Moira Stewart
- Best Local Singer - Iona Fyfe
- Story Telling



Photo: Sunday morning impromptu session at the Royal Hotel

- Senior - Jane Chalmers
- Junior - Heidi Wilson
- 12 & Under - Molly Cole
- Piano
- 13 & over - Eilidh Simmers
- 12 & under - Kirsty Simmers
- Instrumental Group - Abbie's Angels
- Best Instrumental (12 & under) - Rhiann Matthew
- Ian Middleton Trophy - Kirstie Low
- Anne Reid Memorial Trophy - Molly Ridell
- Mither Tongue Trophy (children's poetry) - Eilidh Simmers
- Haud 'Er Gaun Trophy (Charles Murray Trophy) - Jamie Shaw
- Ray Angus Trophy (Most Promising Fiddler) - Dodie Simmers
- Freestyle Instrumental - Lucas McIntosh
- Composition - Amber Thornley

Perth

Perth branch's monthly **Songwriting Sessions** restarted in September after the summer break. The first session was attended by eight people including three who were attending for the first time and who found the event very stimulating. The session is on the last Thursday of the month at 8pm at the Perth Fire Station if you would like to attend.

TMSA Event Calendar 2017

We are currently taking listings and advertisements for next year's TMSA Event Calendar so if you know any groups or venues who would like to advertise their activity to 30,000+ people as well as 76% of visitors to Scotland at very cost-effective prices, please let them know. **The deadline is 30 November.** (Online listings can be updated at any point.) Plus we are looking to expand the distribution at a later date so they can get in now to be first in line for planned new opportunities! Details on the TMSA website - www.tmsa.org.uk or contact the TMSA office.

National News *continued*

Support the TMSA through your purchases and searches

The TMSA is now registered with Easyfundraising which means you can find the TMSA as a cause at www.easyfundraising.org.uk and then register yourself as a supporter, so every time you shop through that website or use the easysearch function, you will be raising money to support TMSA!



Office Changes

Recently Kay Gillespie has been helping us out in the TMSA office keeping memberships up to date and other tasks. She will be leaving us in the next month for a happy reason - she is expecting a baby on Christmas Eve! We wanted to take this opportunity to wish her all the best and thank her for her time with us this and last year.

TMSA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the TMSA will be held on:

Saturday 3 December, 1.30pm for 2 pm - 3pm

The Wighton Heritage Centre, Central Library

The Wellgate, Dundee, DD1 1DB



Your AGM notice and other items should be enclosed with this newsletter. There will be the opportunity to see and hear a little about the Wigton collection - an important archive of materials for Scottish music. You'll also be able to pick up your limited edition 50th anniversary badge for only £2!

Scots Trad Music Awards 2016 on 3 December

The TMSA is once again sponsoring the City Finlayson Scots Singer of the Year Award which has the nominees of: Simon Gall, Lori Watson, Shona Donaldson and Hector Riddell.

Many TMSA members, TMSA Young Trad Tour and related to the TMSA appear individually or in groups e.g. Ryan Young,

Freeland Barbour and Rura. **Voting closes on 18 November 2016** - so don't delay! You can cast your vote at <https://projects.handsupfortrad.scot/scotstradmusicawards/voting/>



Deadline for next newsletter: Monday 9 January 2017

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Some news from other organisations/members...



Making Music is an umbrella body which has members throughout the UK. The TMSA has joined primarily because it offers good insurance cover for our Branch and national activity at a very competitive rate.

Also it offers information, advice and support too. For example there are free training events which may be of interest to TMSA members and affiliates, such as the next one in Scotland is:

Helping your group to thrive

Saturday, 19 November 2016 - 2:00pm to 4:30pm

Tannahill Suite, Paisley Town Hall, Paisley, Abbey Close, PA1 1JF

An opportunity for music groups to make connections, discuss aspects of running your group and find out the latest news from Making Music.

They'll talk about:

Funding for your group and other ways to improve your income

What makes an effective and motivated committee?

Anything else that arises on the topic!

Book your place at: <https://www.makingmusic.org.uk/events>

Making Music also offer musical instrument insurance coverage for UK & Europe at great rates especially if your home contents doesn't cover your instruments when away from home. Check out the individual insurance offer at www.makingmusic.org.uk

Voluntary Arts Scotland have recently published a **new guide 'Cash for Culture'** – specifically created to help voluntary-led cultural groups navigate the funding landscape and how you can get support from <http://www.voluntaryarts.org/2016/11/10/cash-for-culture-a-guide-to-fundraising-for-voluntary-led-creative-groups/>

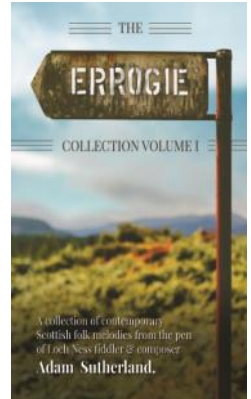


Plus if you've done an epic project or activity – why not get it recognised by entering into **Voluntary Arts' Epic Awards**? Now is your chance to get your group on the shortlist with applications open until **12 January 2017**.

Applying is easy so get your details in on time to be in with a chance. Find out all you need to know about the awards by visiting: <http://www.voluntaryarts.org/epicawards/>

Scots Fiddle Festival – Fiddle 2016: 18-20 November, Edinburgh is celebrating its 20th anniversary with fiddling greats such as Catriona Macdonald, Aonghas Grant Snr, Duncan Chisholm and Paul Anderson as some of the guests joining the party. A weekend filled with fiddles, concerts, ceilidh, recitals, workshops (adult & youth), stalls and much more. Details at: www.scotsfiddlefestival.com

One of the fiddlers headlining at the Scots Fiddle Festival is **Adam Sutherland**. He is playing the Sunday night concert but on **Saturday 19 November at 11.30am at Summerhall**, he is **launching his new collection of contemporary Scottish folk melodies** called '**The Errogie Collection**'. Joined on keyboards by Hamish Napier, Adam will be playing a selection of his tunes, sharing some of the stories behind them and signing copies of the book. **The book is published by TMSA affiliate member Taigh na Teud** who specialises in sheet music, DVDs, MP3s for all levels of players and instruments. For details visit: www.scotlandsmusic.com; www.playscottishmusic.com or tel: 01471 822 528



Traditional Music Forum TRADtalk Extra: Music

Sunday 27 November, Tolbooth Stirling, 12-6pm

TradTalk Extra: Music is the annual get together of the Traditional Music Forum. We come meet, we eat, we discuss and we play music. The theme for our day is Practical Matters. Our members will be sharing their experiences on:

Developing Audiences: promoting concerts & getting people through the door and ensuring activities are inclusive and open to all.

New approaches to Funding: different ways of raising funds from crowd funding to individual giving to developing corporate partners.

Getting Music Heard: We will be looking at taking a co-operative approach to getting much heard with a range of guest speakers.

We will also have the TMF AGM and will round off the day by playing some music. So bring an instrument or a song to share. All welcome - places can be booked for £30 (£25 members) at <http://www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre/centre-events/5937/>

www.tracscotland.org/scottish-storytelling-centre/centre-events/5937/trad-talk-extra-music

The TMSA is a member of the Traditional Music Forum.