

The Right Notes

The Newsletter of the Balerno Music Festival Society

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OFF AND RUNNING !

Ten years isn't all that long a time. but it's amazing how difficult it is to piece together again just what it was like at the 'early' Festivals, or the preparations for them; but here we are off and running again!

The idea of a Balerno Music Festival came from the then Balerno Village Conservation and Development Forum (which eventually morphed into the Balerno Village Trust), but in the main the running was being made by Balerno Parish Church. The initial proposal was circulated around the community as early as April 2006.

Programme planning meetings began in April 2007, and included both planning for the first Festival along with debates about how the Festival idea could actually work.

Initially there was a choice to be made between on the one hand a weekend of concerts and on the other, a series of badged events throughout the year. The weekend won, and of course over the years has grown and grown.

Right from the start it was clear that linking the Festival to the monthly Farmers Market would be important. At the time however we hadn't made the link across to when school holidays were, since in 2008 they didn't start 'til the week after the Festival. So ever since we've been juggling to make sure children's events are before half term.

The link to the Children's Gala for programme launch was also made right at the start, and the familiar yellow cover also goes back to 2008. There have been periodic debates about whether there should be a glossy programme, and, who knows, that might happen. We also decided right at the start that the programme would be free, and again whether to charge for the programme has been the subject of frequent debate.

The first two Festivals were held over a single weekend in 2008

and 2009, but in 2010 the first expansion took place when the Festival extended to cover two complete weekends, and in 2012 it expanded again into the three weekend pattern. Will it continue on that pattern? That depends on the audiences, and on volunteers. The Festival really does want to know what you would like to happen!

What's changed since the start? One of the most important developments since the start was the opening of the St Joseph's Centre in the village. This not only increased the available space but also created a community hub for the event, as it has done for so many others. The first three Jazz Parties took place in the Ogston Hall and then it had one tremendous year at the Bowling Club while the St Joseph's complex was being refurbished back in 2011. Since then St Joseph's, has also been able to host Balerno Village Screen at the Festival, starting with sell out showings of 'Mamma Mia!' in 2012.

Other changes? St Joseph's also enabled the introduction of Music@TheMill (from 2013), running lunchtime performances in the second week of the Festival. giving an opportunity for young talent from our local schools to play to a live audience.

Balerno Music Festival was started to encourage music making in the community, and one of the great things which has come out of that is the ability to help local musical talent to develop.

The Festival has been able over the past five years to make donations to our three local schools, amounting to over £4K in total with a donation also to Sistema Scotland and the Big Noise; after all that's what the Festival is really all about.

WELCOME TO THE 10TH FESTIVAL !

We know you're really going to love the 10th Balerno Music Festival but we'd love to hear direct from you about what you've been to, and what you liked, and yes, what you may not have liked as much.

At most shows there will be feedback sheets for you to let us have your views and we'd love it if you could fill one in and hand it to one of the stewards, or take it home and fill it in and then pop it in the box at the Mill Cafe.

It's a great programme and there really is something for everyone!

Appearing at Balerno Music Festival is good for your career

The very first concert at the very first Festival featured Consortium 5, a recorder ensemble from the south of England. Consortium 5 are still flourishing if their website is anything to go by!



Consortium 5 in 2008



AND Consortium 5 in 2017



Box Office team at the 2009 GALA

Make Ray happy by becoming a Friend of the Festival and make Martin happy by buying lots of tickets!



BOX OFFICE NEWS - You can get hold of Festival tickets on-line, by posting an order to Balerno Parish Church Office, calling at the Box Office at Balerno Farmers Market. Nearer the time you will also be able to buy from the Box Office at Scotmid Balerno

Remembering Music Festivals - No.7

Roy Cook

My involvement with the Festival was to extend somewhat when at the reception following the 2013 Gala Concert, Ray Wyper in his position as Chair of the Festival made a plea for volunteers to join the Organising Committee. I thought that might be fun, offered my assistance and thought no more about it until in February, Ray invited me to meet with himself and Richard Henderson in the Grey Horse. So down I went naively imagining I would be asked to help out with some fairly mundane and undemanding work. Not a bit of it...it turned out they needed someone to take over responsibility for selling advertising space in the Programme booklet and raising sponsorship to help towards the cost of putting on the Festival. No pressure there then! With some trepidation I agreed to take this on and 4 years on I'm still doing it.

We currently have three companies who are major sponsors, seven who sponsor individual events and ten local businesses who take adverts. (See page 23 of this year's Programme.

We would certainly be unable to run the Festival without this support and we are indebted to them all. We will not be resting on our laurels though and the search goes on. Things change all the time and we are always seeking new or replacement sponsors and advertisers, so if you know of any company or individual who you think may be able to help, please let me know.



Roy and Irene on Box Office for the 10th Festival

And finally.....after many years of inspiring, enthusing and leading the Festival Committee, Ray Wyper gave notice in 2014 that he wished to step down as Chairman.....these were worrying times and I recall lots of anxious conversations about how he could be replaced and by whom. Ray kindly carried on for longer than he would have wished and that allowed us more time to come up with the solution which as it happened was under our noses all the

time. Fiona Gilroy who was our Secretary agreed to take on the Chairmanship and I took over as Secretary.

We always welcome additional help so if you would like to be more involved in a very worthwhile community activity why not consider the Music Festival. For me it's been an enjoyable and fulfilling four years and I can thoroughly recommend it to anyone.

Remembering Music Festivals - No.8

Joyce Beaton



Lots of volunteers in 2008!

Ten years ago, at a Parish Church Fellowship meeting in Richard Dennis's house, I volunteered to do the catering for the Music Festival. The plan was to cater from 10-4 on the Saturday. Teas / coffee with cakes/home-baking, lunch and afternoon teas/snacks. Waitrose were sponsoring us. Kathryn and I paid a visit to speak to the manager of the Morningside branch. I had a long shopping list and on the Friday afternoon the goods were delivered to the Ogston Hall kitchen and then the prep work began!

The now Shepherd room was converted into "the sandwich room" where a band of happy volunteers and in conveyer style, the rolls were spread, filled, wrapped and labelled ready for customers.

Volunteers provided 4 soups. Lentil, Potato & Leek, Mushroom and Tomato. This was a tight squeeze getting 4 pots on the old cooker. I do not think it would have passed a safety check now!



It was a busy buzzy day. Lots of volunteers, whom I am ever grateful to, worked a rota system depending on their time and availability

Prices ranged from 30p -50p for cake to £1 for soup or a filled roll.

Double sink washing up, as we had no dishwasher then.

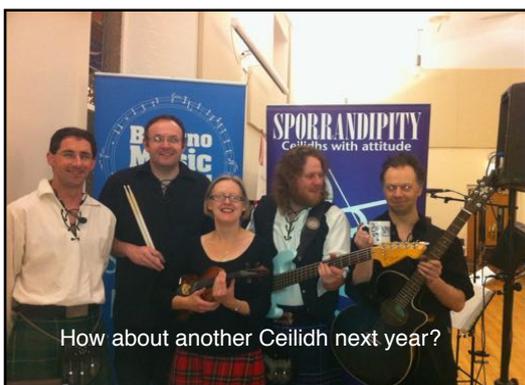
By 3.30 it was quieter but still the clearing up to do and get the halls back to how they were.

We had a surplus of rolls and they were sold off at a bargain price on Sunday morning after church at coffee time.



And for the future?

10 years on and would we do it again? Balerno is a thriving community and we see no reason why the Festival cant go on for another ten years provided you the readers, ticket buyers and supporters want it to. Each year we get approaches from people who want to play at the festival and this year we even saw the beginnings of a Fringe programme when Soft Shoe Skiffle said in August they'd be interested and we thought, well, that should be a sure fire success!



How about another Ceilidh next year?

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR SPONSORS!

Make Ray happy; become a Friend of the Festival



Would you like to help produce the Balerno Music Festival ?

If you'd like to help with the organisation of the 10th Balerno Music Festival then please do get in touch with the Balerno Music Festival Society via Contact Us on balernomusicfestival.org.uk.

Balerno Music Festival is entirely community run and relies completely on volunteers.

Don't forget Music@The Mill
Tues 10 to Fri 13 Oct AND
Coffee and snacks@The Mill
at Festival Cafe Sat 7 &14 Oct

Balerno Music Festival thanks all sponsors and supporters of the 10th Festival

