

The Right Notes

The Newsletter of the Balerno Music Festival Society

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Box Office news

The 2017 programme was launched at the end of May (in its familiar yellow cover). There's also a flyer showing the posters for each of the programme events, along with some information about where and when, and Right Notes aims to add more bits and pieces to the mix. We hope you'll like them all and that they'll help you to make your choices. There's big programme of concerts and events this year and we're looking forward to seeing you at them.

Buying tickets couldn't be easier; you can do it on line or by posting the order to the Balerno Parish Church Office, or you can buy direct at the Farmers Markets or at St Joseph's on a Friday morning.

Look out for the posters and flyers!

Puttin' on the style



Less than four weeks until the first event in the 10th Balerno Music Festival and tickets are moving faster now; we hope that something of the Fringe experience will rub off on Balerno this year. Fringe ticket sales were up 12% and we're hoping to match that, and the latest act to join the Festival is helping to do just that.

This month we're featuring week three of the Festival but also at a Late Entrant to the programme in the form of *Soft Shoe Skiffle*, fresh from a run of three concerts at the 2017 Edinburgh Fringe, who were only announced for Balerno on 6 September and are an immediate hit; but of SSS more anon.

Week three starts with what is now becoming an established favourite at BMF - the *Borders Big Band* - back for their third visit, and by all accounts raring to go. And yes, you'll see Roger Cull in the Big Band, then at the Music@TheMill then at the Jazz Party. Busy man; likes his jazz.

Week 3 proper really starts on Saturday 7th with the Young Musicians Concert which is one of the FREE events at the Festival; free entry but - **P2**

The Soft Shoe Skiffle Band has been one of Edinburgh's best kept secrets ever since the band launched in 2003.

Edinburgh's secret? Well no, not just Edinburgh, since one of the band's *main* members hails from Balerno, although, unless you can recognise him from the photo (and that would be difficult because he isn't in it) you'll have to get hold of a ticket to find out who - and tickets will be hot property.

Those with longer memories will recall that skiffle was hugely important in the development of British pop music, being the link between the ballads and music hall of the post World War 2 era to the beat and rock that took over in the early 60's. The Rolling Stones and the Beatles started off doing it, so did Elton John, Brian May, Eric Clapton and many others. Lonnie Donegan was in at the start, and while there were these other notable names, his was by far the best known Skiffle Group between 1954 and 1962. It was said then there were 10,000 skiffle groups in the UK, with roughly one in nine of the male population in one! Anyone could pick up a guitar and with a washboard and tea-chest bass, you had a skiffle group.

The Soft Shoe Skiffle Band played their first Fringe in 2004 and it was successful beyond their wildest dreams. Now after after a three gig run at the 2017 Fringe the band are moving up market

and into the big time with what we believe is their first ever Music Festival appearance anywhere. Wherever they are, though, they enjoy playing and giving anyone a happy trip down memory lane. You may even get to hear those legendary instruments, the washboard and the tea chest bass, being played in the hands of real experts.

The line up for the gig can be drawn from amongst banjo, mandolin and guitar player, *Iain*, while *Ken* is on upright bass, harmonica and guitar. *Hugh* is also on bass and on banjo, and is also highly proficient on the tea chest double bass *Allan* was a founder member of the (Kilmarnock) Woodpeckers skiffle group back in the '50's, and can certainly call himself a long term professional having played his first gigs in Dundonald in 1957. He is a virtuoso percussion exponent with particular emphasis on the washboard. *Peter* plays bouzouki, banjo and autoharp, and finally, *Norman*, apart from being the youngest member of the group and also liking folk music, sings and plays guitar. As to what they'll play, well, there's Tom Dooley, Singing the Blues, My Old Man's a Dustman, Nobody's Child, It Doesn't Matter Anymore, Does Your Chewing Gum Lose Its Flavour, and all the old favourites. *Be there or be square!*

The Soft Shoe Skiffle Band are at Balerno Parish Church on Thursday 5 Oct at 7.30pm; tickets £10 and (children) £5.

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



It seems just yesterday (2008) that Balerno Folk Club was asked to come along to a small meeting of local organisations to discuss our possible participation in a Music Festival for Balerno village.

Our own participation has always been focussed on what we do all year – run concerts with guest artistes so that was an

obvious contribution. One thing we had never done before, but which features in folk music festivals all round the country, was to organise a children's concert. Having decided that, we agreed the children should not pay and, in fact, became our own sponsor.

A further contribution is less formal; some of our members participate in a monthly folk music session in the Grey Horse pub which has been going since the 1970s. The Club decided to try something similar on the Saturday afternoon of the last Festival weekend and this proved a success too.

Looking back over the years we have seen sell-out concerts on a regular basis with well-known names ranging from Adam McNaughton, Sheena Wellington and Alistair Macdonald to Sangsters, Gaberlunzie and the Duncan McCrone Band. This year we are delighted to welcome Isla St Clair, supported by singer/songwriter, George Machray – a total sell-out.

With his great success with the kids (and adults) last year, former Singing Kettle performer, Artie Tresize is returning to put on another "Artie's Tartan Tales".

Lastly the Grey Horse is hosting the music session in its extended restaurant/lounge on the Saturday afternoon.

So, if you look at what we did the first year and what we are doing now – little has changed with our contribution and we look forward to another 10 years!

A look at week 3 of the festival contd

(contd) donations are always welcome. The Festival Cafe is also open on the Saturday morning til 1.00 coinciding with the start of Fun Time Harmonies Music Workshop (for under 5's). Pentland Singers are also on at 1.00 in St Joseph's as the first part (Come&Sing) of the two part *Sing the Beatles* event with the second part (Come&Hear) at 6.00 in Balerno Parish Church, and they'd love to welcome you to join in at both parts. The on Sunday 8th at the Bowling Club Artie Trezise, creator of the world renowned Singing Kettle will be regaling his young audience with Artie's Tartan Tales at 2.30. Hectic weekend or what?

Music@TheMill is back from Tuesday 'til Friday with students from local schools appearing on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and then Roger Cull with Three Old Guys play a little lunch time Jazz on Friday 13th. Then on the Friday evening Scirocco Winds appear at the Richard Dennis Concert at Balerno Parish Church on Friday evening and take us on a trip to the movies and the theatre with arrangements of favourite film scores and musical theatre numbers; but that's part 2 of the concert and in part 1 they will play Mussorgsky's Night on a Bare Mountain, and woodwind suite by Poulenc. This is a young and vibrant group and they're raring to go!

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



In 2015 I volunteered to join the Festival committee as I had heard that new committee members were needed. I thought that it was time for me to do something for my local community. I have to confess that I did not know much about the festival at that time except for attending the 'Young Musicians Concert' and 'Music@Mill' to hear my grandchildren perform. For my entertainment, like many Balerno residents, I travelled into Edinburgh, completely oblivious to what was available on my doorstep. And so I attended my first committee meeting with some trepidation as Ray Wyper, chair at that time had asked me to take on the media job. I wondered what I had let myself in for.

It took some time for me to become familiar with the way things were organised. I struggled through the next few months with the support of my new committee friends and when the 8th Festival was produced I heaved a sigh of relief. I also attended a few of the events and really enjoyed the experience. Now, in our 10th Anniversary year, I am still writing and helping with other things - organising a rota for the box office and in June I visited the pupils of the Balerno High School media studies group to help them to write a blurb to advertise the festival. There's always plenty to do.

On reflection I look back and realise that the Festival has done a lot for me. I have learned new skills, widened my circle of friends and visit the Farmer's Market once a month something I had never done before. Yes, at times it gets a bit stressful especially as publication deadlines loom but I am very glad that I volunteered three years ago. Why don't you volunteer to join us too? You will be very welcome!



Matthew Howells (Flute), Alice McArthur (Oboe), Charlie Sheppard-Vine (Clarinet), Gillian Horn (Bassoon) and Michael Barr (Horn) are Scirocco Winds

Also on Friday 13th the Folk Concert will be underway at the Bowling Club where Isla St Clair and George Machray will play to a packed house; even at the time of Right Notes going to press this is a sell out concert so if you want to go but haven't yet got a ticket, you'll have to see whether there are any returns.

Saturday 14th hosts the traditional Gala Concert which this year features the Scarlet Quartet with a light operatic programme and we'll have more on that in the Festival Issue of Right Notes.

Which leads us to Sunday 15th when the curtain descends on the 10th festival, but not until after Festival Praise in the morning and then the Jazz Party in the evening again starring the Roger Cull Trio with special guest iain Ewing. If you havent yet heard his Mack the Knife then this truly is something not be missed!

**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.