IRISH MINSTRELS
NUACHTLITIR MEAN FOMHAIR
NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015

WELCOME: Welcome back everyone, and a particularly warm welcome to our newcomers. Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (CCE) is the traditional Irish music association and has over 400 branches worldwide. We are the Glasgow Irish Minstrels branch, the first one outside of Ireland, founded in 1957 and still going (very) strong. We have classes in most instruments every Tuesday at 7pm in St. Roch's. We have 20 top-class tutors, who teach for free, something quite unique. They have all learned their music in the branch and are happy to put something back in. The £2 charge covers school lets, insurance, admin etc, so effectively the lessons are free.

A BUSY SUMMER: The classes may stop, but not the music. Our musicians were spotted at summer schools in Tinto, Milltown Malbay, Drumshanbo, Achill, Letterkenny and Sligo.

ALL-IRELAND FLEADH: This is our equivalent of the Olympic Games, with an incredible standard of music in all competitions. We had 4 grupai cheoil (music groups) and 6 ceili bands competing – more than any branch! Great performances from everyone! Special congratulations to our medallists: Kevin Murphy, 1st senior piano accordion; Roisin Anne Hughes & Patricia McArdle, 1st senior duet; Roisin Anne, Patricia & Catriona McArdle, 2nd senior trio, Breanna Wilson, 2nd 12-15 fiddle; Sarah Donaldson & Megan McLaughlin, 2nd 12-15 duet; Calum McGregor, 3rd U12 piano accordion; David Browne, 3rd senior piano.

A big thanks to our wonderful secretary, Moira Callaghan, for arranging the 5-star accommodation in Sligo.

COME AND TRY: Sat 5th September, Woodfarm Secondary, 1pm, £2. The branch has a number of instruments which it lends to members. This is an opportunity to try out new instruments. Pupils will have a shot at an instrument with the tutor for about 25 minutes. They can try several from flute, button accordion, piano accordion, concertina, banjo. The tutors will decide on who shows most potential in the instrument. Unfortunately, we do not have enough to satisfy everyone. However, parents may decide to buy, as the instruments are fairly cheap.

EOIN KELLY MEMORIAL CONCERT:
Saturday, 12th September, Couper Institute, 7.30pm. Admission £6 (£3), family £18. We remember our founding member at the annual qualifiers' concert. Eoin was a singer, drummer, ceili dance teacher, lilter. For over 40 years, he was the main driving force in the branch and a great encouragement to all our young musicians. The concert showcases all our musicians and singers who qualified for the All-Ireland. In addition, we have the junior band (anyone who did not qualify). The tunes, from book 1, are: (1) Terry Teahan's, Oh the Britches & Kerry Polka; (2) Denis Murphy's & Kerry Slide. For the grand finale, all musicians are invited onstage. The tunes are: East of Glendart, Willie Coleman's & Morrison's.

DATES FOR THE DIARY: Sat 5th Sept Come and Try, Woodfarm 1-3pm.

Sat 12th Sept Qualifiers' Concert, Couper Institute 7.30pm.

Mon 26th Oct AGM, Premier Inn 7pm.

Tues 29th Dec Christmas Ceili Couper Institute.

22-24th Jan Winter School (Concert on Fri in Couper).

Sun 28th Feb Glasgow Feis, Trinity High.

Sun 24th April Scottish Fleadh, St. Andrew's, Coatbridge.

25/26th June All-Britain Fleadh, Leicester.

19-21st Aug All-Ireland Fleadh, Ennis.

COMHALTAS MEMBERSHIP: People must be members to compete in competitions. We expect everyone to join. Family membership is £14. Moira will be giving out forms during the next few weeks.

BRANCH WEBSITE: http://www.glasgowirishminstrels.com/. All the music books we use are here. Also recordings of all the tunes in books 1-3, very useful for learning.

ACCORDION SHOWCASE: Sun 25th October in Renfield St. Stephen's Church. This concert features an array of Scottish champion accordion players plus our very own Paddy Callaghan. Anyone wishing tickets, see Frank.

SESSIONS AT THE TRON Andy and Muireann Arnold have very kindly taken up the challenge of starting up some Music sessions at the Tron Theatre. The first session is on Sun 13th Sept 2-5pm and from there on in there will be a session every month. Louise Hunter will oversee the first session and thereafter the tutor shall vary month to month. Paddy Callaghan is covering Sun Oct 1st. This event is free, however, donations will be accepted at the door to cover the cost of tutors expenses. Please come along and bring the younger kids too as there is plenty of room for them to run around, also lunch/brunch is available in the bar area. This is a great opportunity for our teenagers (12-18yrs) to play in a session environment, generally just for the fun and the craic of it. Our kids don't normally get an opportunity like this and to be honest, this is what is lacking here in Scotland. So many of our peers in Ireland are able to take their children to regular sessions. So much can be learned, new tunes picked up and the kids enjoy the social element which also helps their confidence. Muireann has put all the relevant information on FB. The link for Facebook is:

https://www.facebook.com/trontrad?fref=ts