



AN LON DUBH

The Monthly Newsletter of The Loch Lao Traditional Music Society

Issue No. 19, May 2007

LLTMS EVENTS

MAY
2007

Monday 7th
St. Gall's GAC
9:15 - 11:00pm
Senior Session

Monday 14th
St. Gall's GAC
9:15 - 11:00pm
Senior Session

Saturday 19th
Portglenone
Start 10:00am
Antrim Fleadh

Monday 21st
9:15 - 11:00pm
St. Gall's GAC
Senior Session

Tuesday 22nd
Meet 7:00pm
Marlborough Park
Nth., Lisburn Rd.
Quaker Community
Event

Friday 25th
7:15 - 9:00pm
An Chultúrlann
Family Session

Sunday 27th
Meet 10:30am
St. Michael's
Church
Playing at Mass

Monday 28th
St. Gall's GAC
9:15 - 11:00pm
Senior Session

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TWO SUCCESSFUL APRIL CONCERTS

Loch Lao musicians were busy during the last weekend of April, performing in two successful fundraiser events. On Friday April 27th a strong group of Senior and Intermediate musicians travelled to North Belfast to give a fundraiser concert for a scout troop in the parish hall of The Church of the Resurrection on the Cliftonville Road. John Kelly, Father of new Junior LLTMS member Eva, invited us to participate and we were delighted to do so to help the scouts raise valuable funds. Our musicians were joined once again by our good friends The Norney School of Irish Dancing who once again impressed everyone with an excellent display. The event was supported by a sizeable audience and a large amount of money was raised. The organisers have since expressed their gratitude to the LLTMS and we were pleased to receive an invitation to return in the future. The following evening, another strong group of LLTMS musicians went to St. Gall's to give another fundraising concert in aid of club funds and as always we were delighted to be able to help St. Gall's. Our relationship with the club is vital to us and we remain grateful for their help and support over the past seven or more years. LLTMS committee member Joe Mulhern, who is also the Cultural Development Officer for St. Gall's, was the principal organiser of the concert and he devised a new and very imaginative format for the evening. The concert was a variety evening with contributions from various combinations of LLTMS Senior & Intermediate musicians, the St. Gall's Scór group, and our own 2007 12-15 Fleadh group, as well as singers including Gerry O'Neill, Tom Tully, Gary Johnston and Julia McKenna. Our friend Stephen Downey also performed a couple of numbers on the flute in the concert and the second half of the evening was a more informal session-type format. Whilst the support from the main body of St. Gall's members could have been better, there were a good few members present and all expressed their gratitude to the LLTMS for putting on another excellent show. The committee would like to thank those members who supported these events, particularly those who attended both concerts. We would also like to thank their parents and families for supporting both concerts – your support is very important to us and deeply appreciated.

Fleadh Group

Our new 12-15 Fleadh group, a new venture for 2007, has been continuing to rehearse every Monday night, under the direction of a team of LLTMS Senior musicians. Committee member Michael McCullagh has been overseeing the project and the group is now making final preparations for the first competition which is the Antrim Fleadh in Portglenone on Saturday May 19th. Should the group be successful, by coming either first or second place, they will progress to the next stage which is the Ulster Fleadh in Coalisland on Saturday July 28th. The committee and all members will of course wish the group every success in the competitions and whatever happens, the work that has been done this year will act as a firm foundation for next year.

Corporate Event In The Europa

A small group of Senior musicians is needed to perform in the Europa Hotel on Sunday May 13th from 6:45pm to 7:45pm so PLEASE email back with your availability. The musicians will be providing background music for delegates attending a conference and it is important that we take part in events such as this because they are a useful source of funds for the LLTMS. Further details will be communicated directly with those members who will be participating.

The Loch Lao Story in Carrickfergus

Our good friend Martin Shane of the East Antrim Traditional Music School has invited us to perform The Loch Lao Story as part of a festival in the very appropriate setting of Carrickfergus on Friday June 15th. All Senior musicians who are not doing exams are asked to be available for this evening event, with a practice scheduled for the Monday before, June 22nd. Again PLEASE email your availability to info@lochlao.com

Quaker Community Event

We have been asked to provide music for a May Event organised by the Quaker Community entitled 'Inter Faith Walk'. The event is on Tuesday May 22nd and musicians will be meeting at 7:00pm at Marlborough Meeting House, 22 Marlborough Park North, Lisburn Road. Further details of this event including repertoire, dress code and finishing time, will follow by email shortly.

Continued Grade Exam Success

Congratulations to those LLTMS members who scored continued success in the recent traditional Irish music grade examinations of the London College of Music. Special congratulations to Catherine Muldoon who passed her tin whistle diploma, being only the second LLTMS member to do so (Debbie Wilkinson did likewise last year). Well done to everyone! Details of next exam session will be communicated later.

Calling All Junior Members!

There has recently been a fall off in the number of Junior members attending LLTMS events. ONLY ONE Junior member turned up for the last Family Session so something clearly needs to be done to reawaken interest among our Junior members and their families. We accept that most of our recent events, including those mentioned above, are really only suitable for Senior and Intermediate members, but we have previously invited suggestions from the families of Junior members for suitable Junior events – no replies were received. This is viewed as a potentially serious problem because the Junior members are the Senior and Intermediate members of the future and it is very important that their interest is encouraged and developed. The Junior members deserve the same opportunities for performing as the older members so we would like to invite the parents of Junior members to communicate with us in relation to the provision of suitable events, both musical and social, which would stimulate interest among LLTMS Junior musicians. In the meantime we would invite a large turnout from the Juniors for the next Family Session, which is taking place in An Chultúrlann on Friday May 25th.

The Loch Lao Traditional Music Society is a Registered Charity No. XR62137

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