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2006

AN LON DUBH

The Monthly Newsletter of The Loch Lao Traditional Music Society

Issue No. 20, June 2007

LLTMS EVENTS

JUNE
2007

Monday 4th
St. Gall's GAC
9:15 – 11:00pm
Senior Session

Friday 8th
St. Gall's GAC
Meet 7:15pm
St. Gall's
Annual Dinner

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

Monday 18th
9:15 – 11:00pm
St. Gall's GAC
Senior Session

Sunday 24th
Meet 10:30am
St. Michael's
Church
Playing at Mass

Monday 25th
St. Gall's GAC
9:15 – 11:00pm
Senior Session

Friday 29th
Venue TBC
End of Year Event

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FLEADH GROUP GIVES FIRST PERFORMANCE

After four months of hard work and preparation, the new Loch Lao 12-15 Grúpa Cheoil gave its first competitive performance at the recent Co. Antrim Fleadh at Portglenone, on Saturday May 19. The parents of the musicians were treated to a special preview of the music in An Chultúrlann the night before, and all agreed that an impressive and professional performance was given. Then on the day itself, the musicians and their supporting entourage of parents & family members travelled to Portglenone for the competition. There was just one other group entered for the 12-15 competition, the Crosskeys group. These musicians are very experienced and gave a superb performance, which impressed the Loch Lao musicians very much. The adjudicator was very complimentary to both groups and made a number of constructive suggestions to our team. On the day he awarded first place to Crosskeys and second place to us but all agreed that our musicians gave a very worthwhile account of themselves, against a highly experienced and numerically superior team. The difference in numbers was very noticeable and with this in mind an effort was quickly made to recruit some new players for the group. We were pleased to be able to expand the group to sixteen members, and the complete line up was present at a meeting and preliminary rehearsal on Monday May 28 in St. Gall's. The next round of the Fleadh competition is the Ulster Fleadh which takes place in Coalisland in Co. Tyrone on Saturday July 28 and again we will be asking for as many members as possible to travel to offer support. This will be a tremendous experience for our players, as they will get to see and hear the standards that can be achieved as they will be able to hear groups from all of the nine counties of Ulster. At the Antrim Fleadh, some of our players entered solo and duet competitions and also succeeded in progressing through to the Ulster Fleadh, so we wish them every success with this. Again we offer our thanks to all the musicians for their hard work, to their parents for their support and practical help, and especially to the dedicated team of Senior musicians who helped train the group during the months before the Fleadh. Check the Members' Updates page on the website for the latest information about future rehearsals and have a look at the gallery for some photos taken at Portglenone – many thanks to Loch Lao's talented official photographer, Gary Johnston, for these.

End of Year Social Event

We would like to round off this busy year with a special evening event in St. Gall's for all members, Junior, Intermediate & Senior, and parents and families too. The idea is to let the younger members have a party and maybe a bit of music too, then afterwards have a grand 'end of year' session for the older members, with maybe some refreshments too. The suggested day for this is Friday June 29, depending upon availability of St. Gall's, and we would like to invite the parents of our younger members to offer suggestions on how we could make the event more suitable for the younger members. We have invited similar input in the past but there wasn't a great response so hopefully we can get it together this time and give the younger members an event that they'll really enjoy. Please email Bronagh with your suggestions: info@lochlao.com

St. Gall's Annual Dinner

The annual dinner of St. Gall's GAC takes place on Friday June 8 and we have been asked to provide some musicians to play a short background session beforehand. We would be grateful if some Senior & Intermediate players would make themselves available for this, because we always should be helping St. Gall's wherever possible. Musicians are to meet in the club at 7:15pm and the background music begins at 7:30pm, and will last for about a half hour or so.

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 11th. Again PLEASE email your availability to info@lochlao.com and we are grateful to those Senior players who have confirmed their availability already.

Recent Events

Many thanks to those members who supported recent events including the Quaker Community performance and the event in The Europa Hotel. Events such as these are vital to raise the profile of Loch Lao and are sincerely appreciated by the audiences. They also occasionally present an opportunity to raise valuable funds for the LLTMS, which can't be bad!

School & Grade Exams

We would like to take this opportunity to wish every success to all members who are doing important school exams at this time. We would also like to do likewise for the large number of members who are taking LCM Irish traditional Grade Exams in late June. We particularly appreciate your support for other events during this busy and demanding time of the year.

Summer Approaches!

As this will be the last edition of *An Lon Dubh* until September, we would like to thank all members and their families for their support during our tenth anniversary year. We didn't get to present all the events we had hoped to, but those events that did take place such as the Christmas Concert, the dinner in The Beechlawn and the lecture/recital with Hammy Hamilton, were thoroughly enjoyable and hopefully made the year special. Have a great summer everyone and don't forget to keep an eye on the website during July & August, particularly for the latest news about the progress of our Fleadh group!

Congratulations!

Congratulations to LLTMS Senior Musician Gerard McNamee who was recently made Head Boy of St. Malachy's College! Obviously all that invaluable Loch Lao training has paid off Gerard! Good luck in your new role next year.

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

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