



## MORAY CEILIDH CLUB NEWSLETTER September 2004

Hi everyone,

The 2004/2005 Moray Ceilidh Club Season has officially started.

'Meantime' played to a small but enthusiastic crowd on Saturday 18th September at the Bishopmill Hall. Although the numbers were down on normal it gave the dancers a chance to gather a head of steam and gallop round the hall in the Gay Gordon.

There were a few new faces on the night and they were on the floor from the start and every bit as eager as the older hands. It's great to see that the tradition of Celtic music and Ceilidh dancing should continue down through the ages.

Our next ceilidh is on Saturday 30th October at the Miltonduff Hall and it will feature the Portobello Ceilidh Band who have never played in the north of Scotland before. They play driving and insistent rhythms, which are impossible to stand still to, and while you catch your breath after the fast ones they play slow airs then gradually build up the tempo again. They promote the music and dance of Scotland in a way which makes them relevant, accessible and fun.

Their line-up is as follows:-

**Rodger McAndrew** (accordion):-  
from Blairgowrie. Originally a classically trained pianist but also steeped in the rich traditions of Perthshire from which he draws the bulk of his inspiration. Much in demand as a guest on the dance-

band circuit. Retains a preference for piano but finds the accordion easier to hang round his neck!

**Laurie Crump** (fiddle and whistles):-  
from Dumfries. Classically trained on fiddle and woodwind but brought up in Borders fiddle tradition. From this strong base he set out to explore the other musical areas of Scotland, a journey he claims has a finishing point. A wicked improviser in the fast tunes. On the slow ones he has, as they say - a lovely tone.

**Robert Googs Williamson** (Bass Guitartist):-  
Robert is a professional actor as well as a musician and he found time during his current tour of Scotland being 'Dr Dog' to attend our 'Meantime' ceilidh. He had a whale of a time and was never off the dance floor, which shows that not only can he play all the tunes, he can dance them too! He comes from Yell, Shetland where they all play the fiddle before they can walk. Googs played the bass guitar instead, developing huge muscles and a unique style as a result. His playing combines driving, rocking quality with all the sensitivity to the melody that you would expect from someone of his island heritage and musical pedigree.

**Roy Henderson** (Guitar and Vocals):-  
from Inverness. The bands folkie, singing the pubs and clubs of Europe and North America before discovering that moving a village hall full of grinning dancers was at least double the fun. He sings the songs of Scotland and beyond in the bands more reflective moments. Most of the time he joins Googs in giving big licks.

**Wilma Henderson**:-  
One of the country's outstanding dance callers, much sought after as a guest caller by other bands.

P.T.O. for ticket order form

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Forgotten something?  
Need directions to a venue?  
Maybe more information on a band?  
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Combines a wide knowledge of dances old and new with a sure finger on the pulse of the room and its requirements. As the Edinburgh poet Sandy Sneddon said of her in admiration 'A blonde haired Boadicea with her beater and her bohdran - she'd charm a graceful eightsome reel from a room full of drunken morons'.

Check out their website and listen to some of their music on [www.portobelloceilidhband.com](http://www.portobelloceilidhband.com).

I was talking to Robert 'Googs' Williamson at the 'Meantime' ceilidh and he has promised us a rock 'n roll ceilidh with a couple of new dances thrown in and Wilma keeping us right so the 30th of October should prove to be a great night. We thought that a Halloween theme would be a good idea, so feel free to dress up and decorate your tables with pumpkins.

Remember to save disappointment get those membership fees and ticket requests in asap and we'll see you for a "birl" and a " heugh" at Miltonduff.

I'd just like you to know, that through Euan Martin we tried our best to re-book some of our favourite bands from last year but none of them were available unfortunately, that's why our programme contains bands that you may not be familiar with. Also, it would be great if ticket requests could be submitted sooner rather than later. We were panicking last Wednesday because only 40 tickets had been sold for last weekend's ceilidh and we thought we'd have to cancel. There was a last minute dash though, thank goodness.

Tickets for the 30th are now on sale. Please complete the tear-off portion below and send it to us as normal with a cheque and sae.

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**Portobello Ceilidh Band - Miltonduff - Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2004 at 20:00**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Member Tickets (Adult @ £5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Member's school age kids (Free) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Guests/Non-members (Adult @ £9.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Non-members school age kids (@ £1.00) \_\_\_\_\_

Send **form**, **s.a.e.** and **cheque** to either Caroline Coomber (01343 541983) 32 High School Drive, New Elgin, IV30 6UE or Sandy Duncan (01343 860388) Lagana, Rashcreek, Birnie. IV30 8SW

## Membership Renewals

If your membership is due for renewal you'll find 2 membership forms enclosed, one for you and one to pass to any friends who would like to join us. Please complete your form and send on to Hazel Davis at the address shown on the form.

For those members who joined later in the ceilidh season, don't worry, Hazel will send you a letter when it's coming near to your renewal date.

Caroline Coomber

## Future ceilidhs

Here is the plan for future events, locations, bands, etc

DATE	LOCATION & BAND
Sat 30 Oct 2004 at 20:00	Miltonduff Portobello Ceilidh Band
Sat 04 Dec 2004 at 20:00	Bishopmill Spagnum Moss
Sat 05 Feb 2005 at 20:00	Miltonduff Iron Broo
Sat 19 Mar 2005 at 20:00	Bishopmill Gallivanter's Ceilidh Band
Sat 23 Apr 2005 at 20:00	Miltonduff Six Foot and Ginger

Below is a tear off to help you order your tickets.  
**Hurry, while stocks last!!!**