



“There is no doubt the strong interest and desire to participate ...will enable us to meet the challenges that lie ahead.”

SC&T Chairman's message, page 2



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the newsletter for Scottish Culture & Traditions (SC&T) issue 2 May 2011

Message from the chairman

Richard Ward, SC&T Chairman

As we approach the end of another SC&T year we can reflect on our achievements and look forward to the challenges ahead.

Class numbers were down on the previous year, no doubt reflecting the economic climate and the unavoidable increase in fees that we had to charge. However, the enthusiasm of participants was not dimmed and our end-of-term concerts continued to demonstrate both this and the results, in terms of performance, of the hard work put in by our excellent tutors.

The highlight of the year was undoubtedly NAFCo 2010, a huge success not least because of our involvement.

We continued our efforts to increase our public profile by involvement in events such as the Highland Games, Summer Festival, St Andrew's Day and the Winter Festival, as well, of course, Saturdays at the Lemon Tree. It was good to see one or two classes taking up the opportunity to gain valuable experience of public performance.

As we go to press, the funding situation for next year is uncertain. We have always relied on grants from Aberdeen City Council and Scottish Arts Council (as was) to cover the

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SC&T t-shirts modelled by Danse McCabre's Helen Lynch, Frances Wilkins and Claire White after their Word festival performance (with help from audience member Suzannel).
Photographs: Lorraine Adams

Celebrate summer with SC&T

We have a host of exciting events planned this summer: from our new fiddle classes for kids to a variety of outdoor performances and events, there are opportunities to experience traditional music, song and dance galore.

Inside you will find details of all these events and more in the 'Upcoming Events' section. Over the summer we also regularly update our website and Facebook page with the very latest news, so be sure to keep an eye out for new events.

If you are planning to attend any of SC&T's summer events either as a performer, tutor, volunteer or spectator, remember our SC&T t-shirts are a fabulous (and stylish!) way to show your support and help spread the word about what we do.

T-shirts are available in black, white or grey in unisex sizes S, M, L and XL, priced £10.00. We also have ladies fitted t-shirts in the same colours/sizes for £12.00.



Our popular "foot tappin' folk" text on the reverse.

Inside...

- ◆ **SC&T Upcoming Events**
A guide to what's on in 2011
- ◆ **Message from the Chairman**
News and updates
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- ◆ **Events Calendar**
and much more...

Message from the chairman

Richard Ward, SC&T Chairman

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costs of running the SC&T office, paying our staff, publicity (this newsletter for example) etc. – in fact everything other than tutors' fees and expenses which are covered by the fees you pay for classes.

Our application to the City has been deferred to early June and we have to provide them with more information than in previous years. At best we will get a standstill grant.

As for Creative Scotland (successor to the Scottish Arts Council), the funding stream that we have benefitted from before no longer exists. This is not just a change of name for SAC. The whole ethos of arts funding has changed - the emphasis is now on arts "investment" rather than funding. We are currently awaiting information on potential funding streams that have not yet been published by Creative Scotland. However, there is no doubt that SC&T will have to look to other sources of funding in the future, possibly even for next year.

Keep your eyes on the SC&T website and Facebook pages over the summer to keep up to date with what is going on and we hope to see you all again in September.

Finally, my thanks to Vikki, Lorraine and Jenny as well as my fellow board members and volunteer helpers for their enthusiasm and the work they put in to keep the organisation running smoothly.

There is no doubt about the strong interest and desire to participate that has been our driving force over the years and this will enable us to meet the challenges that lie ahead.

Richard Ward, SC&T Chairman

Battle of Harlaw Anniversary Song Competition

The standard of entries was extremely high and the judges now have the unenviable task of choosing a winner, to be announced in June. The winning song will be performed at 'Harlaw: A Concert of Music, Song and the Spoken Word' at the Town House, Aberdeen on 9th June.

SC&T on Facebook

Keep up to date with all our latest news. Visit our website and click the Facebook link to join up.

Strings 'n' Things **International Fun Day** **Celebrate Aberdeen Parade**
Aberdeen Highland Games **Clarsach Workshop** **Aberdeen Tartan Week**
Lunchtimes @ the Lemon Tree **Plockton Workshops & performance**

Strings 'n' Things

11.30am - 1.00pm, every Saturday from 7th May,
The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen
£6.00 per child per class / £30.00 for a block of six classes

Led by SC&T fiddle tutor, Laura Lockyer, Strings 'n' Things is a chance for young fiddle players to come together and gain experience of playing in a group setting. It's a fabulous opportunity to meet other kids with the same interest and have fun playing tunes together.

While the classes are initially aimed at young fiddle players, other instruments could be catered for if there is enough demand.



Aberdeen International Fun Day

12 noon - 4.00pm, 29th May, Duthie Park, Aberdeen. www.aberdeeninternationalfunday.org.uk

SC&T will add a taste of Scottish traditional music to the International flavoured fun. Visit our stall to find out more about what we do or to try your hand at playing a musical instrument. We'll also have live music by Straefoot in the arena area at 12.40pm.

Celebrate Aberdeen

Saturday 11th June, 11.00am, Union Street, Aberdeen

On Saturday 11th June, Aberdeen's third sector will unite in a spectacular parade starting at Harlaw Academy, proceeding all the way down Union Street to the Castlegate, supported by an array of street performers, local celebrities and musical entertainment. We are thrilled to have Sharon Hassan leading the mobile musical entertainment on SC&T's behalf. Come along and show your support for SC&T and the many other voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises that form a vital part of our community.

Aberdeen Highland Games

Sunday 19th June, Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen

In a change from previous years, in partnership with ACC, SC&T are putting on a series of 30 minute traditional Scottish music performances at the 2011 Games. More details on our website. Hope to see you there!



Clarsach Workshop with Wendy Stewart

Saturday 25th June & Sunday 26th June
10.00am - 4.00pm, Grandhome Estate, Aberdeen

SC&T are delighted to announce our popular weekend clarsach workshop, led this year by leading Scottish harper Wendy Stewart, will take place on Saturday 25th and Sunday 26th June.

Saturday is aimed at beginning and intermediate players, while Sunday will cater for intermediate and advanced harpists. A buffet meal for participants will be held on Saturday evening (£5 extra, payable when booking your workshop place). More details are available online or from the SC&T office.

PLUS OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS...

As we go to press we are busy finalising the details of our involvement in this year's **Tartan Week** celebrations in July - details will be announced online soon.

Our exciting **Plockton** workshops and performance, with some very special guests, will take place in September (more details opposite, online and in our big August mailout) and of course, we will continue to host our popular **Saturday lunchtimes** at the Lemon Tree performance slots throughout the summer. With plenty to choose from, we hope you can join us at some of these fabulous summer events.

REVIEW



SC&T Chairman Richard Ward performing a SC&T 'Saturday Lunchtimes at the Lemon Tree' slot with Alison Hester.
Photograph: Barbara Macdonald

Spring Sing 26 February 2011

This year's relaxed, informative Spring Sing was led by Mairi Campbell, Musical Director and arranger with 'Sangstream'. As ever, this popular workshop was well attended, with participants learning about harmonies, vibration and how to 'listen' to songs. Preparations are already underway for the Spring Sing 2012!

End of Term Concert 27 March 2011

The end of term concert returned to Harlaw in March, where participants enjoyed an evening of performances from the classes, as well as having the chance to wow friends and family with their own musical progress. So far feedback has been overwhelmingly in favour of returning to the Lemon Tree for our next concert (which, hard to believe I know, will be our Christmas one!). If you feel strongly about the venue either way, please do get in touch with Vikki or Lorraine in the office and let us know your views.



SC&T @ Word 13-15 May 2011

In partnership with this year's Word Festival, SC&T provided daily music performances by some of Aberdeen's leading traditional musicians in the Word Café in Elphinstone Hall.

Audiences were treated to live music by Danse McCabre, Straefoot, Youse Dancin and Moonbow to accompany their post-event glass of wine.



To catch up with all the latest news and reviews,
and keep up to date with all our upcoming events, visit
www.scottishculture.org

Summer 2011 EVENT CALENDAR

To have an event listed in the next newsletter, please email details to editor@scottishculture.org

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| Aberdeen Folk Club Blue Lamp, Gallowgate | Wednesday Evenings, 8.30pm |
| Traditional Music Session Newton Arms Lounge, Newtonhill | 2nd Thursday of the Month 8.00pm-11.00pm |
| Scotch Broth Session St Peters Heritage Hall, off Station Road East, Peterculter Contact Christine Miller Tel: 01224 730091 | Sunday Evenings 7.00pm-9.00pm |
| Traditional Music Session Northern Vaults Bar, 9 North Esk Rd, Montrose | Sunday Evenings 8.00pm-11.00pm |
| Stonehaven Slow Session Stonehaven Email charlie_west@hotmail.com for more info | 1st Thursday of the Month |
| TMSA Session The Sportsman Club, 11 Queens Road, Aberdeen | 3rd Tuesday of the Month 8.00pm |
| Cults Folk at the HUB The HUB the café at Cults Outreach Centre, 404 North Deeside Road www.cultsparishchurch.co.uk/folk.htm | 2nd Friday of the Month 7.30pm-10.30pm |
| SC&T Lunchtimes @ the Lemon Tree The Lemon Tree, West North Street, Aberdeen Performance from 1.00pm - 2.00pm. Visit our website for details of performers each week. www.scottishculture.org | every Saturday 12.00pm-2.00pm |
| Glen Clova Weekend Glen Clova Hotel Contact 01575 550 350 to book, giving special code SC&T 2011. | 27-29 May 2011 |
| Aberdeen International Fun Day Duthie Park, Aberdeen www.scottishculture.org | 29 May 2011 12 noon - 4.00pm, Straefoot perform 12.40pm |
| Strings 'n' Things The Lemon Tree, Aberdeen www.scottishculture.org | every Saturday until end of June 11.30am-1.00pm |
| Celebrate Aberdeen Parade Union Street, Aberdeen www.celebrateaberdeen.org | 11 June 2011 |
| SC&T @ the Highland Games Hazlehead Park, Aberdeen www.scottishculture.org | 19 June 2011 |
| Clarsach Workshop with Wendy Stewart Grandhome Estate, Danestone, Aberdeen www.scottishculture.org | 25-26 June 2011 10.00am-4.00pm |
| SC&T @ Tartan Week Various performances/locations, please see our website for more details. www.scottishculture.org | 24-30 July 2011 |
| SC&T / National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music, Senior Students Weekend workshops & performance Workshops: Queens Cross Church, Aberdeen Performance: The Sanctuary, Queen's Cross Church Tickets: £5.00 www.scottishculture.org | 24 September 2011 10.00am - 4.00pm 7.00pm for 7.30pm |

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Company Secretary

Richard Ward

Other directors

Alan Finch, Sandy Tweddle, David Hunter, Dr Ian Russell, Hazel Thomson, John Carnie and Helen Lynch.

We are always looking for volunteers to support our activities - from helping to serve coffee or as stewards at events, to fundraising, PR or web skills. Please let us know how you would like to be involved.

Performance Opportunities

We often receive inquiries for groups to perform at local events and celebrations. If any classes or other associated groups want to take their tunes out to the public, send your contact details and a brief description of the group for the database to Vikki at office@scottishculture.org

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS

Is there an upcoming event of interest to SC&T participants?
Have you written a song or a tune you want to share with SC&T?
Do you have a story for the newsletter?

We would love to hear your experiences of SC&T! If you have anything you would like to see in the newsletter, please send it to editor@scottishculture.org If we don't have room in the newsletter, we will certainly post it on the website!

SC&T is a member of SCVO - Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations and VAS - Voluntary Arts Scotland

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The newsletter is produced approximately four times a year. It is distributed to everyone on our database only in August. Other editions are distributed to those attending classes and sent by post to current 'Friends'. The newsletters are available on the website.

Notice board

Fiddle lessons

Folk & classical; beginner to advanced; music theory and exam preparations also available.

Jani Lang (BA, MA), Tel: 07872 918829

Email: janoslang@gmail.com

Fiddle lessons

For beginners, intermediate, and advanced. Completed the tutor training course at Sabhl Mor Ostaig.

Catriona Ramsay, Tel: 07980 181599

Email: catriona.ramsay@btinternet.com

Accordion Tutor

Accordion lessons, all ages and stages, from Lewis Kane, graduate of Sgoil Chiuil na Gàidhealtachd (The National Centre of Excellence in Traditional Music). Tel: 07843757672 email lewismearns@hotmail.com

Folk Programme on SHMU Radio (SHMU FM 99.8)

SHMU is the School House Media Unit based off Great Northern Road, Aberdeen. "getting to folk" is a live radio broadcast hosted by Gus MacDonald on Wednesdays 3pm till 4pm. The programme offers a wide range of world folk music, provides 'what's on' information and promotes guest performers. If anyone has any information they wish to share with Gus about events etc, please email gettingtofolk@shmu.org.uk and he may give a mention.

Pathways to Performance

SC&T has introduced 'Pathways to Performance' slots during our Saturday slots at the Lemon Tree, allowing young musicians a 15 minute slot during the main lunchtime performance. If you tutor young musicians or know of any young players/singers of trad or trad style music who would enjoy a Lemon Tree 'gig', please pass info about this opportunity on to them, or call Vikki on 01224 591900 for details or email office@scottishculture.org

SC&T instrument hire

The SC&T office currently has one set of full Highland pipes, one set of small pipes, one clarsach and one mandolin available for hire.

Call Vikki on 01224 591900 for details or email office@scottishculture.org

****To advertise here please contact the SC&T office****

Our thanks to those below and all our Friends, class participants, tutors and supporters.

