

ANNUAL REPORT
GLASGOW FIDDLE WORKSHOP
2014 – 2015



June 2015

CHARITY NUMBER: SCO29502

CONTACT DETAILS

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All classes take place at
Glasgow Kelvin College,
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AIMS

Our formal statement of objectives, as per our Memorandum and Articles of Association, is as follows:

The advancement of education and of the arts, heritage and culture, and in furtherance thereof the company will undertake:-

- To promote an understanding and appreciation of Scottish traditional music.
- To provide opportunities for learning to play and sing Scottish traditional music, with an emphasis on learning to play by ear.
- To create a community of people with a common interest in Scottish traditional music
- To forge links with other organisations who have similar interests.

GOVERNANCE

In January 1994 the Glasgow Fiddle Workshop (GFW) was formed as a voluntary organisation with a core group of eight, and in November 1999, Glasgow Fiddle Workshop was reconstituted as a Charity. In May 2008 GFW was reconstituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The elected Board is responsible for managing Glasgow Fiddle Workshop. The Board holds monthly formal meetings throughout the year and also holds ad-hoc meetings as required. Office bearers are nominated and voted in at Annual General Meeting. The Board has the power to engage volunteers and nominate Directors throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP 2014-2015

Chair: Virginia Anderson
Treasurer: Ronnie Melrose
Company Secretary: Cliff Uney

Board Members: Fenella Rennie, Mike Turner, Christine Clark,
Doreen Semple, John Hill

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

GFW would not manage without the efforts of volunteers. Many help out at enrolment, distributing hire instruments with fundraising and at special events.

We would like to note particular thanks to Roy Kavanagh for coordinating all volunteers and recruitment at Celtic Connections over recent years. We wish a happy rest come January as he passes over the reins to Doreen Semple.

STAFF

Coordinator: Craig Macdonald
Administrator: Caroline Watson

Senior Tutor: Monday Nigel Gatherer
Senior Tutor: Wed Finlay Allison
Senior Tutor: (Juniors) Dan Thorpe

Other tutors: See appendix

THANKS TO TUTORS

Thanks to all tutors in particular, Senior Tutors – Nigel, Finlay and Dan for their hard work and enthusiasm and support for the ethos of GFW. Their interest in promoting Scottish traditional music has not only helped GFW increase its membership for its core activity but also provided opportunities for adult and junior learners to play and listen to Scottish traditional music.

Dan Thorpe took up post as Senior Tutor for the Juniors at the beginning of year, and has made a great success of his first year in this role.

Thanks also to all the GFW tutors whose love of teaching Scottish traditional music has provided so much joy to all GFW learners.

The Office Team

This year we welcomed Craig Macdonald as GFW's part time Coordinator. Craig has played a pivotal role in making sure a year of significant transition has been a success, particularly in managing the move to the new campus. Our very sincerest thanks go to Craig for his calm hard work, leadership and commitment.

In Term 3, we welcomed Caroline Watson as GFW's Administrator. With a great track record in the arts and voluntary sector, Caroline has quickly adapted to her new role and is valuable and efficient part of the team.

Thank you to both for keeping GFW organised and moving forward.

Our sincerest thanks go to Karen McGavock who handed over the reins in December after her second time in the post of Administrator. Karen remains an active part of the GFW community and we are delighted that she's still helping on class evenings.

ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES

GFW places an emphasis on increasing participation and removing barriers to learning music. GFW has a stock of instruments, which are available for loan to learners. All teaching is carried out 'by ear' and CDs and sheet music are provided to back up teaching at the end of lessons or workshops.

GFW encourages juniors and adults – those with little experience of music and also those who have previous musical skills. They are steeped in the skills and traditions of Scottish traditional music.

Our membership is made up of learners aged between 8 – 80+ years of age and has decreased by 3 over the last year. The registered membership currently stands at 471.

Teaching centers on Scottish traditional music although our tutors do introduce students to other related styles and traditions, such as Irish, American, English, Shetland and Scandinavian. This places Scotland's music within a broader cultural context and helps learners to understand why musical traditions from across the country vary in style and history.

WEEKLY CLASSES AT GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

The core activity of GFW is the provision of weekly classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings, a slow session is offered before the start of classes each evening.

Adult Classes

- Fiddle classes from Absolute Beginner to Advanced, including Technique classes.
- Ukulele classes at the following levels: beginners, improvers, intermediate and advanced.
- Mandolin has three levels: beginners, improvers and intermediate.
- Bodhran, Guitar, Whistle, and Accordion classes at beginner and improver/ intermediate level.
- Mixed Instrument classes at intermediate and advanced level.
- Cello, Tenor Banjo, 5 String Banjo, Song Class and Ceilidh Band operate as single level classes.

Junior Classes

- Guitar and Tin Whistle at single level classes
- Fiddle classes at the following levels: absolute beginners, beginners, improving beginners, intermediate and advanced.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

All our tutors are musicians of a high calibre who perform professionally or semi-professionally. Many have undertaken the degree course in traditional music. All are selected for their experience and deep understanding of traditional music. We are very proud of our tutors who include past winners of the BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year Award.

Tutors deliver high quality learning and teaching using learning CDs and packs provided by GFW to maintain a consistent curriculum. Guidelines are made available for each of the levels and classes are evaluated through feedback from learners and tutor meetings.

All tutors are appointed in line with GFW Tutor Policy and contract. The policy covers artistic, administrative guidelines and Disclosure Scotland.

Regular senior tutor meetings and tutor meetings are held to allow tutors to discuss the curriculum, events and any aspects of teaching and learning with a view to improving the service to learners.

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

2014–15's biggest news has been the change of location for GFW's classes. After 20 years at Stow College, where the office is still located, all classes now take place at the John Wheatley campus. The venue was chosen in consultation with members, and we continue to monitor satisfaction with the new location. A recent survey showed that members were generally happy with the location; however, we have lost some learners who feel that it is too far to travel from the West of the city in rush hour.

It is with disappointment that we have not been given access to the college to balance and expand classes over three evenings, as had originally been agreed the college. There is no further room to add classes on a Monday evening, and non-fiddle classes are now also taking place on Wednesdays. The Board will continue to monitor this.

As the financial report and accounts will show, the organisation is ending the year with a small surplus. Finances continue to be monitored fairly tightly, and it is hoped that next year's finances will benefit from a more stable year with no changes to funding, venue or other significant influencing factors that we anticipate. As usual, class fees will be reviewed during the summer break.

Sincere thanks are due to Ronnie Melrose for restructuring our financial reporting, taking over as Treasurer, and keeping tight margins on track with the help of all the senior tutors and staff.

Classes and learner numbers

Learner numbers continue to see small but steady growth, with additional classes being introduced in key instruments to manage numbers although registered members have remained almost static at 471, 411 adults, 60 juniors. 318 people were registered for classes in Term 4 of this year, in comparison to 271 in Term 4 2014. There was a both a large reduction in returning members due to the move, and a large influx of new learners which has left a fairly even position overall.

Because of the great success of our recruitment at Celtic connections, very large classes had to be accommodated at the early stages of fiddle and, to a lesser extent, ukulele. There are now 5 early stage Fiddle classes-Abs Beginners, and Beginner 1,2,3 and 4.

The slow sessions have continued to be successfully with 'Prepare for the Pub' class on a monthly basis at Hillhead Sports Club as well as pub sessions

at the Curlers, Byres Road. Taught by Finlay Allison, the class helps introduce learners to regular tunes and build their confidence in playing with other instruments.

The aim is to help students learn new material to incorporate into the monthly pub session. Sound files and music for this repertoire is regularly added to the relevant pages on the GFW website. This has a much more variable attendance being primarily for melody instruments, with small numbers of Guitar, Bodhran and Ukulele. Numbers are generally lower because of this and a contribution is given from this money to the hire of the room. Between the income from this and the Curlers Rest Session the tutor fees are covered so there is no overall cost to GFW.

The success of Ukulele classes has been maintained as the popularity of this instrument gathers momentum. There are 4 class levels on a Monday night ranging from absolute beginners right through to advanced.

Since we had a number of requests at Celtic Connections for classes other than those we normally offer, some new ideas for widening the range of instruments available saw new classes begin (Term 3) on 5-string Banjo, Small Pipes, Harmonica, Ceilidh Band as well as reinstating our Gaelic Song Class. Unfortunately Small Pipes and Harmonica have not been successful and of the remaining survivors only 5- String Banjo can be said to have flourished.

The Tuesday Mixed Instrument Class has now moved to Monday nights. The Wednesday Mixed Instrument Class has continued to do well and has had a successful day representing GFW at GOMA.

Management

After significant changes to the GFW Board, we welcomed new members Ronnie Melrose, Christine Clark, John Hill and Doreen Semple. Ronnie has taken up the post of Treasurer.

Much clearer roles and responsibilities have been implemented with each Board member leading an aspect of GFW's work. This has been working very effectively and has provided additional support for senior tutors and administrative staff.

Virginia Anderson is retiring as Chair in June 2015.

EVENTS

• ***West End Festival , Glasgow- June 2014***

There was a Family Ceilidh with Junior members performing which was well attended. An open air Ceilidh was again staged at the Dumbarton Road side of the Kelvingrove Art Galleries. This was a fun and busy afternoon,

showcasing the musical talents and dancing skills of tutors, learners and members of the public alike.

- ***Fiddle 2014, Scots Fiddle Festival, Edinburgh – November 2014***

GFW provided 4 hours of led sessions as part of the wider programme. This involved Sandie Forbes and Daniel Thorpe sitting in with sessions of adult learners to facilitate inclusive slow sessions. They were held in Summerhall Edinburgh and were well attended by patrons of the fiddle festival. These sessions led by GFW tutors at Scotland's only fiddle driven festival, are a great opportunity for the organisation to publicise our ethos and classes as well as connecting with other organisations in attendance.

- ***Celtic Connections - January 2015***

GFW hosted a series of very busy workshops during Celtic Connections. This year we offered various 'Come and Try' events for Ukulele, Whistle and Fiddle: the workshops were oversubscribed and extremely successful including Nigel Gatherer's 'Big Slow Session'. They are used as a way of raising the profile of GFW and encouraging new learners.

Finlay Allison also promoted GFW's profile at the 2-day Ukulele School and gained many new members at the start of Term 3 in January.

- ***Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin - April 2015***

A group of 14 junior members attended this week-long event, supported by 2 parent volunteers, and it proved to be a great success. A very successful fund raising campaign by the Committee, involving raffles and bake sales as well as several donations from members funded Daniel Thorpe, Senior Tutor, to take the groups to a four-night attendance at this event in Edinburgh. GFW were able to subsidise the cost of the tutor, parents' accommodation and food. As well as taking part in workshops our Juniors attended a live shows and joined in music sessions.

- ***Learn To Play Day March 2015***

A Music Industry national promotion on learning musical instruments gave GFW an opportunity to raise our profile in the local schools and Katherine Macleod made several visits to nearby places (accompanied occasionally by Finlay Allison) to play to classes and distribute leaflets advertising GFW's imminent restart for Term 4.

Despite fairly low visits on the actual day to John Wheatley College, nevertheless around 8 new members were signed up and joined classes. The Musicians Union subsidised 50% of the tutor fees for tutors employed that day offering Come and Try on a range of instruments.

Social Events

- ***Christmas Do December 2014***

Our Annual Christmas event, which was oversubscribed, was well attended with a fun music session. Thanks go to Craig Macdonald and Karen McGavock for organising the event.

- ***Burns Supper January 2015***

Organised by Jack Westwood and Craig MacDonald, this was sponsored by the Islay Inn and proved to be another sell out evening. There was music and song from GFW tutors who are thanked for their support. Thanks are also due to Jack and Craig.

Weekly Sessions

- ***Islay Inn***

Every Monday, GFW hosts a Session in the Islay Inn, Argyle Street led by Alan Jones and Alan Shute. This is an extremely well attended session attracting tourists, visiting musicians and a regular cohort of players. It also encourages and enables learners to keep playing during summer holidays.

- ***Curlers Rest***

A 'Very Slow Session', led by Finlay Allison, takes place once a month on a Sunday evening. The session is deliberately slower than the Monday Session to encourage new learners to try out this kind of playing, without being intimidated by stronger and more experienced players. This has stabilised to a regular attendance of around 25 or so, each paying £4:00 contribution to GFW funds.

- ***Hillhead Sports Club***

A 'Prepare for the Pub' session, also led by Finlay Allison, takes place on the last Sunday of each month.

OTHER ASPECTS

GFW Website

The website has had a fairly major overhaul under with the support of Lesley Alton, Mike Turner and Ronnie Melrose. It is now working far more effectively with news, tutor information and other resources being added and updated more frequently, and an easier to use layout. Improvements will now continue incrementally. It is agreed our social media presence needs to link to this resource more frequently and drive learners to the website for events and other news.

25th Anniversary

This year will mark the 25th year since a group of like-minded individuals got together to form what was to become the Glasgow Fiddle Workshop. The Board will look at marking this milestone and would like other members who would like to get involved in organising events.

FUTURE PLANS

• *Development Plan 2015 – 2016*

The coming year is likely to see a further increase marketing and promotional activity, particularly in the area surrounding John Wheatley Campus. The Board are keen to continue to build on workshops that Katherine McLeod ran alongside the outreach music day and raise our profile locally.

The new Chair will lead a review of priorities for the coming year during the summer break.

• *Class Fees*

These were adjusted in August 2013 when the cost of an adult class was increased by about 70p per night. In recognition of the financial climate, however, concessionary and junior rates stayed unchanged. The current fees for a 7-week term are as follows. These will be reviewed during the summer 2015 break, as we also need to review Tutor pay during this time:

Adults £68

Adult Additional Class £62

Adult Concession £52

Adult Additional Class Concession £47

Junior £37

Membership only £7

Virginia Anderson
Chair

June 2015

LEVELS - FIDDLE

Absolute Beginners: This class is for people who have never played the fiddle before. You will be taught how to hold the fiddle and the bow and learn to play some simple tunes by ear. Everything will be explained assuming no prior knowledge.

Beginners: This class is for those who have already completed the Absolute Beginners class and/or those who have played a little before. You should know how to hold the fiddle and bow and be able to play a couple of simple tunes at a slow pace. This class will work on simple tunes with an emphasis on creating good tone, tuning and confident playing.

Improving Beginners: This class is for those who have completed the two previous standards and have moved to being able to play a few tunes with reasonable confidence at a medium pace. This class will continue to work on simple tunes with an emphasis on creating good tone, tuning and fluency of playing. You may also be introduced to some basic bowing and simple ornamentation.

Intermediate 1: This class is for those able to learn simple tunes comfortably by ear and play them fluently with simple bowing and good tuning. This class will work on tunes in a wider variety of tune types and keys. You will look at bowing and ornamentation in more depth.

Intermediate 2: This class is for those who feel comfortable with the previous classes and can play a wide range of tunes with confidence, in tune and with fluent bowing style. The class will assist in developing a traditional style of playing, increasing knowledge of ornamentation and repertoire. You will learn a variety of tune types and look at some of the more difficult key signatures.

Advanced: This level is for students who have a wide knowledge of techniques and repertoire specific to Scottish traditional style. You should be able to learn easily by ear and have some reading ability. This class will focus on advanced tunes from the solo fiddling repertoire and will assume good technical knowledge.

Technique: For those of standard Intermediate 2 and above. Students should ensure they have a good basic knowledge of Scottish fiddling techniques and some music reading ability before joining this class. Work is based around tunes but with emphasis on different techniques within tunes rather than building a repertoire.

GFW LIST OF TUTORS JUNE 2015

Monday Night Classes - Senior Tutor Nigel Gatherer

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
ACCORDION - BEGINNERS	JOHN CARMICHAEL	MG05
ACCORDION - IMPROVERS	ALAN SHUTE	MG007
BODHRAN	CHRIS WAITE	MG12
BODHRAN - INTERMEDIATE	MARISSA WAITE	COMMON ROOM
CELLO	TRISH STRAIN	MF16
GUITAR - BEGINNERS	JOHNNY CRADDEN	MG21
GUITAR - INTERMEDIATE	JOHN MALCOLM	MG20
MANDOLIN - INTERMEDIATE	LAURA BETH SALTER	MF25
MANDOLIN - IMPROVERS	NIGEL GATHERER	MF10
MANDOLIN - BEGINNERS	JENN BUTTERWORTH	MF26
TENOR BANJO	CELINE DONOGHUE	MG18
UKULELE - BEGINNERS 1	FINDLAY NAPIER	LIBRARY
UKULELE - IMPROVERS	FINLAY ALLISON	MF15
UKULELE - IMPROVERS	IAN MURRAY	MF12/14
UKULELE - INTERMEDIATE	MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN	MF11
WHISTLE - BEGINNERS	LORNE MACDOUGALL	MG06
WHISTLE - INTERMEDIATE	KATHERINE MACLEOD	MF24
MIXED INSTRUMENT	ALAN JONES	Upstairs Staff Room
SONG	NAOMI HARVEY	PROJECT ROOM

Total of 19 classes

Wednesday Night Classes (Juniors) - Senior Tutor Dan Thorpe

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
JUNIOR FIDDLE - LEVEL 1	SANDIE FORBES	MF 10
JUNIOR FIDDLE - LEVEL 2	EILIDH RAMSAY	MF 26
JUNIOR FIDDLE - LEVEL 3	TRISH STRAIN	MG 20
JUNIOR FIDDLE - Intermediate	RUAIRIDH MACMILLAN	MGO5
JUNIOR FIDDLE -Advanced	DANIEL THORPE (SNR)	MF 12
JUNIOR GUITAR	CHRIS WAITE	MF20
JUNIOR WHISTLE	KATHERINE MACLEOD	LIBRARY
PARENT'S FIDDLE	JAMIE SMITH	COMMON ROOM

Total of 8 classes

Wednesday Night Classes (Seniors) - Senior Tutor Finlay Allison

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
FIDDLE - ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS A	GRAHAM MACKENZIE	MF27
FIDDLE - ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS B	DANIEL THORPE	MF12/14
FIDDLE - BEGINNER 2	EMMA TOMLINSON	MF26
FIDDLE - BEGINNER 3	EILIDH RAMSAY	MF16
FIDDLE - IMPROVER 1	FINLAY ALLISON (SNR)	MF10
FIDDLE - IMPROVER 2	TRISH STRAIN	MG20
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 1	JAMIE SMITH	MF15
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 2	SANDIE FORBES	MG19
FIDDLE -INTERMEDIATE 3	FIONA CUTHILL	MG07
FIDDLE - TECHNIQUE 2	DOUGLAS LAWRENCE	MF11
FIDDLE - ADVANCED	RUAIRIDH MACMILLAN	MGO5
CEILIDH BAND	JOHN CARMICHAEL	MG18
5 STRING BANJO	MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN	MF24
MIXED INSTRUMENT	KATHERINE MACLEOD	LIBRARY

Total of 14 classes