

**ANNUAL REPORT
GLASGOW FIDDLE WORKSHOP**

2012 – 2013



CHARITY NUMBER: SCO29502

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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:-

- (a) To promote an understanding and appreciation of Scottish traditional music.
- (b) To provide opportunities for learning to play and sing Scottish traditional music, with an emphasis on learning to play by ear.
- (c) To create a community of people with a common interest in Scottish traditional music
- (d) 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.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Voluntary Management Committee is responsible for managing Glasgow Fiddle Workshop. The Committee 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 Committee has the power to engage volunteers and nominate Directors throughout the year.

MEMBERSHIP 2011-2012

Chair: John Newman/ Virginia Anderson

Treasurer: Ann Pidgeon

Company Secretary: Cliff Uney

Directors: Virginia Anderson, John Newman, Tom Lamb,
Marie-Therese Allison

Members: James Johnston, Craig MacDonald, Fenella Rennie,
Sue Moir, Mike Turner, Janice Burgess (resigned Sept '12)

THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS

GFW would not manage without the efforts of volunteers. Many help out at enrolment and at special events e.g. Roy Kavanagh for co-ordinating all volunteers and recruitment at Celtic Connections and Archie Toppin for the Burns Supper.

THANKS TO COMMITTEE

Special thanks to all former members of the Committee for their dedication and hard work. Thanks to current members of the committee for their work.

STAFF

Administrator:	Karen McGavock
Senior Tutor: Monday	Nigel Gatherer
Senior Tutor: (Juniors)	Finlay Allison
Senior Tutor: Wednesday	Lynsey Tait
Other tutors:	See appendix

THANKS TO TUTORS

Thanks to all senior tutors in particular – Nigel, Finlay and Lynsey 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. Thanks also to all the GFW tutors whose love of teaching Scottish traditional music has provided so much joy to all GFW learners.

THANKS TO ADMINISTRATOR

Sincerest thanks are due to Sue Bell who resigned the post of administrator at the beginning of the year. Sue made a significant impact on the systems and ways of working in this key role within GFW.

Karen McGavock re-joined GFW's staff as administrator and has supported the organisation throughout this year. Karen's hard work has helped GFW deliver a good service to learners during a very challenging year, and the committee would like to note their thanks to Karen for her steadfast support.

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 increased over the last year by 25. In August 2012 and January 2013 there were enrolments the membership currently stands at 463.

Teaching centres 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 STOW COLLEGE

The core activity of GFW is the provision of weekly classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings and a mixed instrument class on a Tuesday evening. On Mondays and Wednesdays, a slow session is offered before the start of classes.

Adult Classes

Fiddle classes from Absolute Beginner to Advanced, including Technique and Repertoire classes.

Ukulele classes at the following levels: beginners, improvers, intermediate/advanced.

Mandolin has two levels: beginner/ improver and intermediate.

Bodhran, Guitar, Whistle, Accordion and Mixed Instrument classes at beginner and improver/intermediate level.

Cello, harmonica, banjo and Song as single level classes.

Accordion and ukulele have become part of our regular programme following the excellent response to pilot 'come and try' workshops at Celtic Connections and block booked classes.

Junior Classes

Guitar single level classes

Fiddle classes at the following levels: absolute beginners, beginners, improving beginners, Intermediate and advanced.

A whistle class is also available.

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 current and 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

2012 - 2013 has been one of the most challenging in GFW's recent history. After many years of regular core funding for the organisation, Creative Scotland did not renew its grant. Creative Scotland made significant changes to its funding programmes with a change in focus to project based working and in particular new projects. Like many similar organisations, GFW's core work was no longer a focus for Creative Scotland's new policies. This has resulted in a loss of the annual grant of £25,000.

Fortunately, after a few years of rigorous focus on helping the organisation become healthy and well run, and with sensible reserves, we have been able to reduce the impact of this loss in support. The committee has focused its efforts on ensuring GFW has been able to support itself and reduced its dependence on grant funding.

All unnecessary spending has been reduced, as have the hours of the administrator. As the financial report and accounts will show, the organisation is ending the year with a small loss having mitigated against deep changes. All core classes and activities have been retained with only some subsidised events having been excluded from the programme.

End of grant payments and Gift Aid are still due, and these will help ensure that the financial position remains good.

Significant thanks are due to Treasurer Ann Pigeon and to the senior tutors for patiently and effectively managing these changes.

Classes and learner numbers

Learner numbers continue to see steady growth, with additional classes being introduced in key instruments to manage numbers. Registered members have grown from 438 last year to 463 in the current year, an increase of 5.7%. The membership now comprises 415 adults (89%) and 48 juniors (11%). The adult figure consists of 300 paying the full rate (72%); 96 paying the concession rate (23%); 11 are members only (3%) and 8 unaccounted for (2%).

The slow session has continued to be a great success with an additional 'Prepare for the Pub' class being introduced on a monthly basis at Hillhead Sports Club. Taught by Finlay Allison, the class helps introduce learners to regular tunes and build their confidence in playing with other instruments.

The success of Mixed Instrument sessions has grown at Stow College. Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday sessions provide intermediate and advanced classes for learners who want to arrange, play with other instruments and use their skills in a different environment. The Tuesday class focuses on composition and arrangement for advanced learners.

A cello class has been reintroduced after the efforts of learners to bring together a sufficient group.

Management

Marie-Therese Allison resigned as Chair at the end of the last year, having introduced significant improvement not only to day-to-day running of GFW but also in its strategic management and planning. Replaced by two co-chairs, it has been a time of change as new committee members and chairs have learned the ropes and managed this transition.

A regular sub group of senior tutors and committee members now meets to plan and support senior tutors with their work.

Organisational review

Business and marketing students from The University of the West of Scotland have recently completed a study of GFW. Their comprehensive review involved interviewing internal and external stakeholders to understand perceptions of GFW and help look at funding and recruitment. They have recently completed their report and recommendations to the board.

They identified areas for growth including children's classes, broadening the range of adult members, and use of web and social media.

The survey carried out to support their recommendations found that members of the public considered GFW class fees to be good value for money.

Key findings included the following suggestions;

- Implementing a marketing campaign with initial focus placed on guitar tuition
- Work in collaboration with schools and colleges/universities as well as running open fun days and free taster sessions. These events would require low financial input and have the potential to achieve increased membership signings.

EVENTS

West End Festival June 2013

- *Junior Concert and Ceilidh*
This year's junior concert and the family ceilidh have been merged into a single event at Hillhead Sports Club on 22nd June.

Social Events

- *Christmas Do*
Our Annual Christmas event, which was oversubscribed, was well attended with a fun music session. Thanks go to Craig Macdonald and Karen.
- *Burns Supper*
Run by Archie Toppin and Marie-Therese Allison this was sponsored by the Islay Inn. There was music and song from GFW tutors at another sell out evening.

One-off Musical Workshops

- *June workshop*
Following the success of last year's Big Band workshop, an event on 22nd June will bring learners together to play and participate. There will also be an associated art workshop.
- *Junior Harvest Fling and Spring Fling*
These were unfortunately cancelled due to low numbers. Financial circumstances meant that these events could not be subsidised this year.
- *Fiddle 2012 Scots Fiddle Festival – November, Edinburgh*
A group of junior members partnered with children from Riddell Fiddles in the Borders to take part in workshops in preparation and then in Edinburgh at the festival. The event was a great success.
- *Scottish Power Staff Engagement Event - December 2012*
Led by Finella Rennie, GFW participated in an event at Scottish Power. The stand was busy and the event was an excellent opportunity to promote adult music learning and GFW's classes.
- *Celtic Connections - January 2013*
GFW hosted a series of very busy workshops during Celtic Connections. This year we offered various 'Come and Try' events for instruments: Ukulele, Accordion and Fiddle. The workshops were oversubscribed and extremely successful. They are used as a way of raising the profile of GFW and encouraging new learners. The closure due to redevelopment of areas of the Royal Concert Hall meant that GFW's activities were promoted at the Mitchell Library and City Halls this year.

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*
GFW has introduced a Very Slow Session in Curlers Rest led by Finlay Allison. This 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. It is accompanied by a new website with sound files and music for most of the instruments. It also enables learners to keep playing together during the holiday period.

OTHER ASPECTS

Jo Miller, University of Sheffield

A founding member of GFW, Jo Miller is undertaking her PhD and has been studying GFW's learning and teaching methodology. She has interviewed students and tutors, and observed classes. Her feedback has been very positive and she notes the hard work of tutors in creating the best learning experiences for students.

Website

It was agreed to further develop the website and this has been undertaken by Lesley Alton, who has also delivered training to tutors and the administrator to enable them to keep the site up to date on a more regular basis.

Learner Survey

Feedback was extremely and consistently positive.

FUTURE PLANS

Strategic Development Plan 2013 – 2014

The focus for the coming year will be on retaining and increasing the core class offering. Recommendations by the University of the West of Scotland will be considered and a revised development plan undertaken. Increasing numbers at Junior level is a priority, as is retaining learners.

As learners progress through GFW's class levels, they can be lost at the advanced and upper intermediate levels. We are keen to help the more advanced learners continue to develop their skills and the mixed instrument classes offer an opportunity for this. Other options will be examined.

Class Fees

These remained unchanged in the current year. However, it is proposed that these are increased by £5 per 7-class session in 2013 - 2014 to help mitigate against the loss of core funding. In recognition the current financial climate, concession rates will be held at current levels for those in receipt of state benefits, students and those claiming state pension. This would result in 7-week term session fees as follows:

Adults £68 (increase from £63)	Adult Additional Class £57
Adult Concession £52	Adult Additional Class Concession £47
Junior £37	Membership only £7

Virginia Anderson/John Newman - Co-Chairs

June 2013

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 MAY 2013**Monday Night Classes - Senior Tutor Nigel Gatherer**

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
ACCORDION – BEGINNERS	JOHN CARMICHAEL	G16
ACCORDION – IMPROVERS	ALAN SHUTE	G18
BODHRAN	CHRIS WAITE	1/12
BODHRAN	MARISSA VACHON	1/13
CELLO	TRISH STRAIN	2/23
GITAR – BEGINNERS	FINDLAY NAPIER	2/15
GITAR – INTERMEDIATE	JOHN MALCOLM	2/16
HARMONICA	FRASER SPEIRS	2/17
MANDOLIN – BEGINNERS	MHARHI BAIRD	2/19
MANDOLIN – INTERMEDIATE	NIGEL GATHERER	2/18
TENOR BANJO	CELINE DONOGHUE	2/20
UKULELE – BEGINNERS	FINLAY ALLISON	1/31
UKULELE – IMPROVERS	IAN MURRAY	1/33
UKULELE – ADVANCED	SUZANNE ROSS	1/32
WHISTLE – INTERMEDIATE	LORNE MacDOUGALL	2/21
MIXED INSTRUMENT	ALAN JONES	ENT SUITE
SCRATCHY NOISES		1/1

Total of 17 classes

Tuesday Night Classes - Senior Tutor Finlay Allison

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
MIXED INSTRUMENT - ADVANCED	ALAN JONES	ENT SUITE

Total of 1 class**Wednesday Night Classes (Juniors) - Senior Tutor Finlay Allison**

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
SIGN IN ROOM	LYNSEY TAIT	G16
JUNIOR FIDDLE LEVEL 1	TRICIA MULLEN	G/18
JUNIOR FIDDLE LEVEL 2	TRISH STRAIN	1/31
JUNIOR FIDDLE LEVEL 3	FINLAY ALLISON	G/16
JUNIOR FIDDLE LEVEL 4	LYNSEY TAIT	1/33
JUNIOR FIDDLE LEVEL 5	DANIEL THORPE	1/32
JUNIOR FIDDLE LEVEL 6	SANDIE FORBES	1/1
JUNIOR GUITAR	SUZANNE ROSS	1/12
JUNIOR TIN WHISTLE	KATHERINE MACLEOD	G/23
PARENTS FIDDLE	RUAIRIDH MACMILLAN	2/19

Total of 9 classes

Wednesday Night Classes (Seniors) - Senior Tutor Lynsey Tait

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
FIDDLE - ABSOLUTE BEGINNER	SARAH HUNTER	G18
FIDDLE - BEGINNER	FINLAY ALLISON	G16
FIDDLE - BEGINNER	FIONA CUTHILL	2/19
FIDDLE - BEGINNER	RUAIRIDH MACMILLAN	2/15
FIDDLE - IMPROVING BEGINNER	TRISH STRAIN	1/31
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 1	SANDIE FORBES	1/1
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 1	LYNSEY TAIT	1/33
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 2	JAMIE SMITH	2/16
FIDDLE - ADVANCED	DANIEL THORPE	1/32
FIDDLE - TECHNIQUE 1	TRICIA MULLEN	2/20
FIDDLE - TECHNIQUE 1	DOUGLAS LAWRENCE	2/21
SONG	NAOMI HARVEY	1/12
MIXED INSTRUMENT	KATHERINE MACLEOD	G23
STRUMELELE		2/22

Total of 14 classes