

The Balladeer

Monthly newsletter of Acoustic Routes, Wellington's folk music club

Acoustic  *Routes*

www.acousticroutes.org.nz



November 2022: In this issue

1. AR St Andrew's Celebration Concert featuring John Sutherland, young highland pipers, and Ceol Alba. Thursday 24 November, Roseneath School Hall, 7:30 pm.
2. Joan Prior Young Performers Showcase Concert, Moon Bar Newtown, Sunday 6 November, 6pm
3. Open Mic at Plimmerton Boating Club, Wednesday 9 November, 7 pm
4. Open Mic at The Office, Newtown, Sundays 13 & 27 November, 5:15 – 8pm
5. New event - AR monthly song circle, Johnsonville Community Hub, 3 Frankmoore Ave Johnsonville, Monday 21 November, 7:30 pm
6. Balladeer Music Noticeboard
7. Want to perform?
8. About Acoustic Routes
9. Acoustic Routes contacts
10. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region

This newsletter can be printed out from a pdf located on the website
<http://acousticroutes.org.nz/news/the-balladeer/>

1. AR St Andrew's Celebration Concert featuring John Sutherland, young highland pipers, and Ceol Alba. Thursday 24 November, Roseneath School Hall, 7:30 pm



Born in rural Aberdeenshire, John Sutherland lived his early years in a place rich in history and a treasure house of tradition. He has memories of hearing music played and ballads sung by the ordinary folk around him – a part of everyday life. The tunes and the stories told, and the manner in which they were sung, provided John with an awareness and appreciation for the cultural heritage of the area. The Aberdeen Folk Club helped keep the

tradition alive, providing a venue for well-known performers – an inspiration for young musicians. The area has produced numerous folksongs and singers over a long period and John considers himself fortunate to have heard many of them.

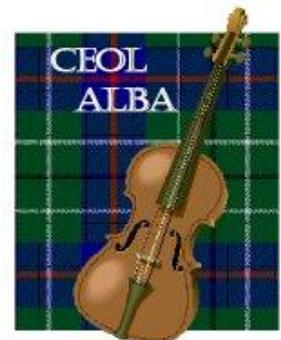
Skiffle, jazz and blues have also influenced John's repertoire, but the songs of the North-East of Scotland are close to his heart. You will hear love songs, bothy songs, work songs and the great ballads as well as more recent material, written within the tradition, by the likes of Archie Fisher and Aberdonian Ian Campbell.

The local dialect, known as "the Doric", may prove challenging but the meaning of the songs is well conveyed by John's skilful guitar and vocals – a fitting tribute to St Andrew's Day.



No St Andrews celebration would be complete without pipers and this concert will not be an exception.

We will also have the pleasure of hearing members of the **Ceol Alba** Scottish music club present some of their favourite repertoire, with an emphasis on traditional fiddle music. The club has been meeting mostly monthly for about 15 years, and has over 200 pages of reels, jigs, strathspeys, marches, waltzes, slow airs, polkas, hornpipes.... Their meetings are deliberately low key, and all the music is played by the whole group at a comfortable speed for those present. A fun way to improve your playing, and ceilidh and Scottish Country Dance bands have grown from its membership.



Entry: \$15/\$10 for members. Cash only (no eftpos facilities).

2. Joan Prior Young Performers Showcase Concert, Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street, Newtown, Sunday 6 November, doors open 6pm, music starts 7pm

A big thank you to the young performers who made this year's Joan Prior Award such a success. The eight singers and musicians who received the award put on an inspiring concert for us at Wellyfest, in a programme that ranged from cutting edge originals to beautifully performed traditional tunes and songs.

Our 2022 award winners are:

- ✚ Sofia Machray and Alex Hoare (singer songwriter, guitar and cello).
- ✚ James Hunter (singer, guitarist, alternative folk).
- ✚ Catherine Bullock (singer songwriter, guitar).
- ✚ Zavier Boyles and Jackie Lamb (whistle and mandolin, Irish and Scottish folk).
- ✚ Alexander Guy (singer, guitarist, international folk songs and originals).
- ✚ Caoimhe Lane (singer, guitarist, contemporary and traditional folk).



Seven of the award winners will be appearing again in a special showcase concert at Moon in Newtown, on Sunday, November 6, hosted by Don Mackay, with the support of Newtown Festival. It's going to be a wonderful evening!

3. Open Mic, Plimmerton Boating Club, 10 Moana Road Plimmerton, Wednesday 9 November, 7pm

To help support the Plimmerton Boating Club, we have agreed to move the open mic to the second Wednesday of the month from now on.

Spread the word.

Same Ole MC.
Roy McGuinness 021433878



4. Newtown Open Mic upstairs at The Office, Sundays 13 & 27 November, 5:15-8pm.



Newtown Acoustic Sound's "Open Mic" is back, upstairs at The Office Bar in Riddiford Street, Newtown, on Sundays 13 and 27 November.

Usual Covid common sense – please don't come if you have ANY symptoms.

Contact: kevin.ikin@supermail.co.nz, or newtownacousticsound@gmail.com

Please note: Sunday 27 November is the last Newtown Open Mic for 2022.

5. New event - AR monthly song circle, Johnsonville Community Hub, 3 Frankmoore Ave Johnsonville, Monday 21 November, 7:30 pm

We are launching a new event – a song circle on the 3rd Monday each month at the Johnsonville Community hub (in the side room, go into the main room and turn left). Bring songs to share or just come to join in. Tea and coffee provided, entry \$4.

Doors open from 7 pm, music starts at 7.30.

6. Balladeer music noticeboard

Where you can advertise your music-related items—lessons, instruments, gigs, band members wanted, etc.

a) Workshops on playing traditional Irish music, with James McNamara and guest tutors. The Community Room, Toi Pōneke, 61-69 Abel Smith Street, Mondays 31 October to 5 December, 7:30-9:00 pm.

Come and join this series of workshops suitable for anyone who can play their instrument but wants to learn more about playing Irish trad music. The focus is on teaching and learning tunes by ear, and delving into style, phrasing and other aspects of Irish trad playing. We'll work on techniques that are useful in sessions, including learning from different instruments.

- 31 October: with Pat Higgins (flute). We'll get into pulse and phrasing in jigs and reels. Groove, and variety.
- 7 November: with Richard Tait (banjo). We'll explore swing and other rhythmic techniques.
- 14 November: with Kris Nielsen (uilleann pipes). We'll learn ways to drive a tune that take their inspiration from piping.
- 21 November: with Mairead Bogue (fiddle). We'll learn different ways to play a hornpipe, and Mairead will introduce us to what's on the charts in County Cavan.
- 28 November: with Andrew James (mandolin). We'll have a slip jig or two, and Andrew will teach phrasing and ornamentation of piping jigs on the mandolin.
- 5 December: with Ceara Bickerton (flute/whistle). We'll dive into the Sliabh Luachra tradition of south-west Ireland and learn how to get slides and polkas hopping.

\$15 per session, \$10 for students.

Feel free to contact James McNamara (james.mcnamara.music@gmail.com) with any questions.

b) Up Close & Personal Plimmerton presents Mark and Brenda, 21 Gordon Road Plimmerton, Friday 2 December, 7:30 pm



For three decades Mark Laurent and Brenda Liddiard have been playing music together, part of that secret army of 'indie' musicians who fly just below the commercial radar, playing grass-roots, mostly unplugged music throughout New Zealand, Australia and the UK.

Mark Laurent plays the blues like his life depends on it! His guitar is just about as expressive as his vocals and confirms the guitar hero status that he earned several decades ago when his professional music career kicked off in the 1970's. His wife and performance partner Brenda Liddiard has a voice born of true folk, protest and alt country sentiments. Brenda has been greatly influenced by English and American

acoustic music and found her niche as a songwriter during her passionate involvement with environmental and anti-nuclear issues dating from the 70's and 80's. Her album, *Box of Memories*, was a finalist in the 2013 Tui Awards for Best Folk Album.

Laurent and Liddiard together present an eclectic mix of material that can be 'pin drop' delicate, or sound like a full band!

15:00 a ticket.

Please call or text Annie to reserve your seat 0274599376

Arrive from 6:30pm to mix and mingle. BYO drinks and a small plate for supper

**c) Songwriters Showcases at the Moon Bar, 167 Riddiford Street Newtown
Sundays 13 & 20 November, 4 December, 7 pm**

13 Nov - Elisha Hobbs, LOST BiRD, Bill Angus

20 Nov - Renee Millner, Julie Lamb, Nigel Marshall

4 Dec - Seamus Johnson, Danica Bryant, Sam Aoake-Austin, Beans Maries (tbc)

Doors open from 6pm, music from 7pm, door charge \$10

Contact: Don Mackay 6021songs@gmail.com

**d) Competition – 3 highland pipe tunes for Sinclair Inkster Pottinger. Closing
date 30 November, 5:30 pm**

- Born 20 January 1895, North Hous, Burra Isle, Shetland
- Immigrated to New Zealand 27 March 1913
- Killed in action 26 August 1918 near Grevillers / Baupame



As a living legacy for Sinclair Inkster Pottinger, and the Shetland and Pottinger family diaspora, the Gear family are offering prize money totaling NZ \$5,000 for the composition of three tunes for highland pipes (highland or Scottish small pipes).

1. A slow air or slow march to be titled *Peter and Helen Pottinger's Lament for Sinclair* (minimum of two parts, \$1,500).
2. A retreat march to be titled *Sinclair Pottinger's Memorial* (\$2,000): either
 - a. 3/4 timing in the style of *Green Hills, Battle is Over*, etc. (minimum of 2 parts) or;
 - b. 6/8 timing in the style of *The Mason's Apron, Mrs Lily Christie* etc. (minimum of 2 parts) or;
 - c. 9/8 timing in the style of *Battle of the Somme, Heather Grant of Strathyre* etc (minimum of 2 parts) or;
 - d. 2/4 timing (minimum of 4 parts).
3. A reel (traditional dot cut style) or hornpipe to be titled *Sinclair Pottinger's Reel/Hornpipe*, celebrating the Pottinger family diaspora (minimum of four parts, \$1,500).

A panel of four independent judges will evaluate the entries: Davey Welsh (Wellington), Scott Giffin (Wellington), Alasdair Mckenzie (Invercargill), and Flight Sargeant Murray Mansfield QSM. Their decision will be announced on **Waitangi Day, 6 February 2023**. The winning tunes will be attributed to the composer, transcribed for fiddle, and made available for all to play.

For more information and an entry form, please contact gurdyphilippa@gmail.com

e) Interested in Participating in a Documentary about Acoustic Routes?

Stephen Riddell has decided to make a documentary about the history of Acoustic Routes and the Wellington Folk scene so he is looking for people to help tell this story. In particular, he is looking for people who were around the club in the early days who would be keen to be interviewed about their experiences.

He is also looking for photos and video clips from the club's history, so if you have these rifling about then please let him know.

Contact: stephen@riddellproductions.com

7. Want to perform?

The AR Committee would like to hear from you if you are interested in performing at our events, including support acts for our monthly concerts. Contact us at performers@acousticroutes.org.nz.



8. About Acoustic Routes

Acoustic Routes (Wellington Folk Centre Incorporated) is a club for people who enjoy playing and listening to folk and acoustic styles of music.

The fourth Thursday of the month generally features a concert, usually with a visiting artist and support acts from amongst our membership. Check the website or the Balladeer for updates about the venue.

Members get priority access to performance opportunities and can have input into the club's activities. To join, email treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz.

Acoustic Routes publishes this newsletter (The Balladeer) at the start of every month, and also an acoustic gig guide for the Wellington region (Acoustic Routes update). You can [subscribe online](#), or contact publicity@acousticroutes.org.nz.

9. Acoustic Routes contacts

President: Ruth Birnie president@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

Correspondence: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Treasurer/Membership: Karen Munro treasurer@acousticroutes.org.nz
<karenguitarist@hotmail.com>

Balladeer: editor Philippa Boy, producer, Stephen Riddell
balladeer@acousticroutes.org.nz

Acoustic Routes update email: Kevin Ikin secretary@acousticroutes.org.nz

Performance opportunities: performers@acousticroutes.org.nz
<mailto:ruthbirnie@gmail.com>

Postal address: PO Box 27-191 Marion Square, Wellington, New Zealand.

Website: www.acousticroutes.org.nz

10. Other regular folk events/contacts in the region – please check websites or email for updates

Trad Singing Session with Dave Barnes hosting

When: 2nd and 4th Monday of the month, from about 6.45pm
Where: The Welsh Dragon Bar, Wellington. This session celebrates unaccompanied singing in traditional style. Fine beer and food to be had at the bar.
Contact: Dave Barnes david.barnes@xtra.co.nz

Ceol Alba Scottish Music Club

When: 4th Friday of the month, 7.30 - 9.30pm. A club for playing and/or listening to (mostly) traditional Scottish music. Sheet music supplied or downloadable
Where: Lower Hutt.
Cost: \$5 per night
Contact: Lynne Scott, 04 565 0164 lynne@scott.gen.nz

Levin Folk Music Club

When: 2nd Friday of month, 7.30 pm, blackboard concert plus guest artist.
Entry: Members \$5, Non-Members \$10, Children \$3 (includes supper)
Club Night: 4th Friday of month, 7.30 pm \$2 Koha.
Where: Horowhenua Scottish Society Hall, cnr Bartholomew Rd and Middlesex St.
Website: www.levin-folk-music-club.org.nz

Mainly Acoustic Music Club

When: (Mostly) every 2nd Tuesday of the month, 7.30pm
Where: Mayfair Cafe, 116 Main Street, Upper Hutt
Contact: Mary Khalil 021 02314505 mary.khalil@xtra.co.nz
Club committee email: info@mainlyacoustic.co.nz
Website: <http://mainlyacoustic.co.nz/coming-attractions/>

Morris dancing: Dave Barnes <http://www.morrisdancing.org.nz/>

Pukerua Bay Folk Club

When: 1st Thursday of the month, 8pm (no club night in January)
Where: 9 Donlin Rd, Pukerua Bay
Contact: Murray or Julie Kilpatrick, (04) 239 9951, musicianmurray@gmail.com

Wellington Bluegrass Society

When: 3rd Friday of the month, 8pm
Where: 54 Richmond Street, Petone
Contact: Andrew Bicknell, (04) 477 0069, bluegrass@xtra.co.nz
<http://wellingtonbluegrass.net.nz/>

Wellington Scottish Fiddle Club

When: Varies, but mostly monthly around the first Sunday
Where: Depends on who is hosting it this time! A club for learning tunes in the traditional "by ear" style, it welcomes fiddlers of all levels.
Cost: Mostly free
Contact: Iain Matcham 04 568 8635, email iain@jumbletree.com