

# ANNUAL REPORT

## GFW Glasgow Folk-music Workshop



June 2017

CHARITY NUMBER: SCO29502

## **Office Address and class venue**

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**Glasgow Kelvin College,  
East End Campus  
John Wheatley Building,  
2 Haughill Road,  
Glasgow, G31 3SR**

Website:

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Email

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Telephone

0141 564 7399

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Our Memorandum and Articles of Association states these as:

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.

In 2016 our NAME WAS CHANGED, to reflect our teaching of 10 instruments in addition to fiddle, as well as Ceilidh Band and mixed instrument groups. In order to retain the logo "GFW", for legal and commercial reasons our name needed to be "Glasgow Folk-music Workshop". Please continue to call us "GFW" among yourselves.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

### **Board members 2016-2017**

Chair: Fenella Rennie  
Treasurer: Ronnie Melrose  
Company Secretary: Cliff Uney

Board Members: Mike Turner, John Hill, Rita Warrilow, Linda Caren, Lorraine Campbell,

## **THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS**

This year at Celtic Connections, volunteer members again staffed our 2 stands during the festival, assisted by our super new "pop-up" banners. Their sterling efforts were followed by many new members enrolling

for the new term.

In addition members help with special events and week to week activities. We couldn't manage without all this and once again thank you all very much indeed

## STAFF

Coordinator: Craig Macdonald

Administrator: Katrina MacLeod

Senior Tutor: Monday Nigel Gatherer

Senior Tutor; Mon/wed Alan Shute

Senior Tutor: Wed/mon Finlay Allison

Senior Tutor: Juniors/wed Dan Thorpe

Other tutors: Appendix 1.

### 1. THANKS TO TUTORS

Thanks particularly to our Senior Tutors – Nigel, Finlay, Alan and Dan for their hard work, enthusiasm and support for GFW. Without them the organisation would cease to exist.

Thanks also to all the other GFW tutors whose wide variety of musical expertise and teaching styles are the lifeblood of the organisation.

### The Office Team

Craig Macdonald has been GFW's part time Coordinator again this year. He was invaluable in ensuring our smooth transition to our new accommodation, inducting our new administrator, and making sure that nothing was left to chance. He chose to stand down and take up other activities, telling us he had made sure we could manage without him. If we can, then it's thanks to Craig's tireless efforts on our behalf.

Katrina MacLeod joined us as administrator in the summer of last year and has proved more than equal to the job, quietly getting to know us and making stepwise positive adjustments to administration with the support of all committee members.

Karen McGavock provides the completely indispensable tea and coffee service, faultlessly. Thanks from all of us.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

GFW places an emphasis on increasing participation and removing barriers to learning music. We have a stock of instruments, which are available for hire to learners. Teaching is carried out 'by ear' and sheet music is provided to back up teaching at the end of lessons or workshops. Students are given the opportunity to make recordings of their tutor playing tunes, to have for practice at home.

We teach juniors and adults, those with little experience of music and those with some, or many, musical skills. We aim to provide a variety of paths by which students can choose to progress within the organisation.

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. Effectively, learning is both formal and informal.

## **ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES BY TEACHING, LEARNING and PARTICIPATION**

### **1. WEEKLY CLASSES AT GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE**

The core activity of GFW is the provision of weekly classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings. In addition a Tutor led slow session is offered before the start of classes each evening, and a fiddle class is offered to parents during junior class teaching.

#### Adult Classes

1. Fiddle classes from Absolute Beginner to Advanced, including Technique classes.
2. Ukulele classes at 5 levels.
3. Mandolin and Accordion at three levels: beginners, improvers and intermediate.
4. Bodhran, Guitar and Whistle classes at beginner and improver/intermediate level.
5. Cello, Tenor Banjo, 5 String Banjo, Harmonica, Song Class, Ceilidh Band and mixed instrument class.

#### Junior Classes

**Guitar and Tin Whistle** at single level classes

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

 **New classes can be set up where both demand and resource exist.**

### **2. Tutors**

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 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 teaching for learning, to maintain a core GFW curriculum. Senior Tutors provide Tutor training to assist in this process.

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 "best practise" artistic and 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.

### **3. Informal learning and participation**

#### **Weekly Sessions *Islay Inn- Argyle Street***

Every Monday, after classes, and earlier if classes are not on, Alan Jones and Alan Shute lead a "session" in the Islay Inn. This is very well attended, attracting tourists, visiting musicians and a regular cohort of players, and is sponsored by the Islay Inn.

**Café Siempre, on Dumbarton road, is the most recent venue for the highly successful "very slow session" twice a month, masterminded and conducted by Finlay.**

#### ***West End Festival, Glasgow- June 2016***

An Informal GFW band, led an open Air Ceilidh from the steps of Kelvingrove Gallery. This annual event attracts increasingly large participation from the public, and you can see over 100 dancers on Facebook!

Aug 2016 we celebrated Enrolment night with a short concert and Masterclass from Jamie Laval, renowned Canadian Scottish fiddler. This was enjoyed enormously, and there is a rumour he may make a return visit.

September 2016 was our "Family Ceilidh" showcasing talents of junior members while providing a night of music and dance for the rest of us.

Nov 2016 was our "Big Bash", dinner and Ceilidh at the Oran Mohr, to celebrate 25 years of GFW. It was an enormously successful culmination of a year's planning, coordination and effort by Rita, John and Jeremy with a little help from the rest of us and a stunning GFW tutors' band, yet again.

#### ***Christmas Dinner December 2016***

*An annual event again oversubscribed as ever. The Islay Inn do us proud with the meal and we provide the music after.*

#### ***Burns Supper January 2017***

Jack Westwood provided his usual sterling service, organising a truly memorable traditional occasion, enjoyed by all. Thanks to The Islay Inn for again sponsoring it.

In 2017, at Celtic Connections, some of our Tutors again ran extremely popular “come-and try” workshops. At these, GFW was promoted using our brand new “Pop-up” banners, completely re-designed for us by Nigel Gatherer. Nigel Gatherer’s Big Workshop, Dan Thorpe’s “come and try” fiddle workshops and Finlay Allison’s come and try and beginner workshops and 2 day ukulele school were again sell-outs with many new members signing up, having attended their workshops.

May 2017 GFW provided a “Central Station Experience” for lucky commuters, timed to link with the West End Festival. Many members, and our own Strumelele, with tremendous support from Central Station authorities, played over a 2 hour slot and showcased GFW yet again, soliciting new members as well.

### **Management of GFW in the past year**

The Board **has** completed several projects during the year, as above, working more effectively with each member having a specific focus. In spite of this we felt more members would make us even more effective and succeeded in attracting 4 more volunteers who we hope can stay next year.

As the financial report and accounts show, our finances are in good heart, although there is no room for complacency. As usual, class fees will be reviewed during the summer break. As our new Treasurer, Ronnie Melrose has restructured our financial reporting, taken on much of the work himself, and kept tight margins on track with the help of all the senior tutors and staff.

### ***Class Fees currently are:***

Adult Term	<b>£70</b>	7 Classes from 7:30 to 9:30 including half time break
Additional Class	<b>£63</b>	Additional Class fees are for the same person learning more than one instrument in the same term. e.g. Monday Whistle, Wednesday Fiddle
Concession Term	<b>£54</b>	Concessionary fee applies to those in receipt of state pension: students on a recognised full-time education course: and those in receipt of certain state benefits such as Jobseeker's allowance or Disability Living allowance
Additional Concession	<b>£48</b>	
Junior Term	<b>£37</b>	Wednesday early evening 1 hour classes
Member Only	<b>£7</b>	Remain a GFW Member although not currently taking a class

### **Intern programme**

**Thanks to Finlay applying to Creative Scotland Small Grants, we have funded a pilot programme to train an 18+ GFW former junior as a potential tutor.**

### **Website**

**Our website has had a cosmetic update to match our new Pop-ups and is regularly reviewed to ensure content is up to date. The online enrolment is working very well thanks to all those who worked so hard to make it a success. Hopefully more and more of us can enrol and pay on line, freeing up administrative time for all our benefit. Of course the ability to enrol and pay in person will always be there for those who need it.**

**We will increasingly use our social media presence to inform members and potential members.**

### **Classes and learner numbers**

Since the move to new premises we have seen a steady increase in numbers of members, and classes, in comparison to numbers each term in previous years.

Pre class slow sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays are kept finely tuned by much effort from Nigel as well as Finlay, Alan Shute, John Carmichael others and have a big following.

### **Liason with John Wheatley college and Kelvin college.**

We have had 2 meetings with college staff, at their invitation, to plan ways in which we can learn from, and support, each other. This ties in well with our hope that we can attract more members from the locality of the college and may offer access to increased facilities. We will keep you informed on this front.

**Fenella Rennie**

**Chair**

**June 2017**



## Monday Tutors 2017

<b>Class</b>	<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Room</b>
Accordion Beginners	Sarah Alexander	MG3 Project Rm
Accordion Improvers	Alan Shute	MG07
Accordion Intermediate	John Carmichael	MG05
Banjo Tenor 1	Celine Donoghue	Library Room
Banjo Tenor 2	Collette Hunter	Library Office
Banjo 5-String	Garry McFadden	MF27
Bhodran Beginners	Ewan Baird	Construct 3
Bhodran Improvers	Martin O'Neill	Common Rm
Cello	Trish Strain	MF16
Guitar Beginners	Sean Gray	MF23
Guitar Improvers 1	Aidan Moodie	MF12
Guitar Improvers 2	John Newman	MG21
Guitar Intermediate	Jenn Butterworth	MF26
Mandolin Beginners	Owen Sinclair	MF27
Mandolin Improvers	Nigel Gatherer	MG20
Mandolin Intermediate	Laura-Beth Salter	MF25
Mixed Instrument	Alan Jones	MF15
Scratchy Noises		MG19
Ukulele Abs Beginners	Findlay Napier	MF11
Ukulele Beginners	Gordon Melrose	Upstairs Staffroom
Ukulele Improvers 1	Finlay Allison	MF12/14
Ukulele Improvers 2	Ian Murray	MF20
Ukulele Intermediate	Thomas Abela	MG18
Whistle Beginners	Eddie Seaman	MG06
Whistle Improvers	Katherine Macleod	MF24

## Wednesday Tutors 2017

<b>Class</b>	<b>Tutor</b>	<b>Room</b>
<b>FIDDLE Classes</b>		
Absolute Beginners A	Emma Tomlinson	MF26
Absolute Beginners B	Jack Smedley	MF24
Beginners	Grainne Brady	MG21
Improvers 1	Rua MacMillan	MF16
Improvers 2	Trish Strain	MG20
Improvers 3	Finlay Allison	MF10
Intermediate 1	Jamie Smith	MF15
Intermediate 2	Graham McKenzie	MG19
Intermediate 3	Fiona Cuthill	MG07
Technique 1	Daniel Thorpe	MF12/14
Technique Advanced	Douglas Lawrence	MF11
Advanced	Sandy Forbes	MG05
<b>OTHER Classes</b>		
5 String Banjo	Garry McFadden	MF27
Mixed Instrument 1	Katherine MacLeod	MF20
Mixed Instrument 2	Sean Gray	Library
Ceilidh Band	John Carmichael	Common Room