

ANNUAL REPORT 2021 -2022

Glasgow Folk-music Workshop



CHARITY NUMBER: SCO29502

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Introduction

This report refers to the period between June 2021 and May 2022 which continued to be a difficult time for members and tutors due to Covid 19 and the impact of government restrictions.

GFW, however, worked hard to provide members with classes, sessions and workshops online, in-person and even hybrid versions of the two. All this, I believe, has helped us recruit new members from beyond the Glasgow area. It has given all members a chance to gain confidence, increase their musical knowledge, maintain our goal of fostering traditional Scottish music and benefit from the link between playing music and general health and wellbeing.

Our hardworking Board (volunteers and senior tutors) continued to meet on a regular basis examining operational matters including monitoring adult and junior numbers, timetabling classes to maximise our resources and tutor recruitment. Moreover, we spent time on more detailed strategic planning including our online presence, website renewal and partnership working. This was helped by a successful Development Day lead by Dr Jo Miller (Academic and Traditional Musician) providing Board members with time to reflect on GFW strengths, concerns and future.

Overall, I believe that this has been a successful year for GFW made possible by the enthusiasm and commitment of our Administrator Donald, members, tutors, Board members, especially Ronnie Melrose our Director of Finance.

Zoom Classes

Two years ago, most people had not heard of Zoom. It is here to stay. Tutors and learners gained expertise and confidence in using zoom technology, allowing GFW to offer online classes in most instruments and song.

GFW Classes

Adult Classes

In August 2021, we resumed face to face classes in Glasgow Kelvin College, followed by renaming the Fiddle classes in 2022 to offer either in College or online classes for each skill level. This has shown an increase in members returning to fiddle classes on campus. It was lovely to meet with learners who decided they had enough of zoom. It was not quite the same atmosphere as in the past. No tea, one-way systems and mask wearing protocols. However, it was a tentative beginning to a return to normality and everyone agreed it was enjoyable to meet others and play together.

Juniors

We ran online junior classes during lockdown. As numbers dropped, we decided to return to face to face classes in February 2022. However, our numbers are very low which is concerning. Consequently, we have decided to appoint Jennifer McGlone to lead a project to encourage more juniors. Parents of attendees have offered to distribute leaflets at school fayres and spread the word. We hope to offer some Come and Try sessions and perhaps a weekend school.

Wednesday Warm up

By Term 4 most restrictions had been lifted. On Wednesdays we are now playing the 'warm up' prior to classes in the Atrium with Finlay Allison and John Carmichael. Zoom players have not been left out. They join us on Zoom simultaneously in a hybrid live music session.

Membership Numbers

The charts below represent our membership numbers for the year 2021-22. The second chart provides a further breakdown following the change to the fiddle classes in February 2022.

						New Fiddle Class Names						
	T1	T2	T3	T4	%Ave		T1	T2	%Ave	T3	T4	%Ave
Monday in College	36	41	48	40	25%	Wednesday in College	51	53	39%	72	63	56%
Monday Online	153	140	111	92	75%	Wednesday Online	88	73	61%	60	47	44%
Monday Total	189	181	159	132	165	Wednesday Total	139	126	133	132	110	121

West End Events June 2021

It was an uplifting experience to have the GFW Band and members back to playing at several outdoor events in the West End of Glasgow. Everyone looked so happy as they danced to the music. We played in:

- Vinicombe Street,
- Partick Farmers Market
- Children's Wood
- Kelvingrove Art Galleries

New Website

In November 2021, the Board discussed our current website and took the opportunity to review the website and ensure it was fit for purpose. We used a survey of members, which provided pointers and led to the creation of a sub group who after a challenging search to find an appropriate Website Developer, the sub group on behalf of the Board negotiated and appointed Domain Design Agency to develop our new website, which will be up to date and user-friendly. Work is ongoing and it is anticipated that the new website will be live for the new session. Many thanks to the members of the subgroup for their hard work.

External Donations

This year GFW contributed £150 which was donated to Lodging House Mission.

Celtic Connections

Our Celtic Connections in-person workshops were cancelled at the last minute which was very disappointing for everyone concerned. Nevertheless, GFW was able to offer 18 online workshops in ukulele, 5 string banjo, fiddle, ceilidh, guitar and cello. These were not quite as numerous as in the previous year but nevertheless it provided a great opportunity to take advantage of the publicity machine of Celtic Connections. Moreover, Celtic Connections have confirmed that GFW is a key partner for community events in 2023. This is a useful partnership for GFW because it allows us to recruit new members (especially those at beginner stage) for Term 3.

Thanks

The success of GFW is attributable to the enthusiasm and hard work of the following to which thanks are due:

Board of Trustees

Volunteers who are Board Members and ensure effective governance and financing of GFW.

Administrator

Donald Higgins-Durnan who ensures the administration required for GFW runs smoothly.

Senior Tutors

Nigel Gatherer, Alan Shute, Finlay Allison and Daniel Thorpe who teach classes and deliver sessions prior to classes; engage tutors, develop and manage the curriculum; organise and deliver additional events over and above classes, events which allow members to take their music out into the community and experience music making in a real sense as well as promoting GFW. I am also pleased to report that GFW members are back playing in the Islay Inn.

Tutors

Our tutors teach repertoire and technique playing by ear and provide encouragement and support to learners. Many of our GFW tutors are highly skilled performers in the Scottish traditional scene. (Appendix 1 – Tutors).

Members

Thanks to you our members for your commitment and support.

Conclusion

During 2021-2022, GFW continued to offer a wide range of online and live classes teaching multiple instruments/song from beginners to advanced. There has been some decline in our membership in some classes. This may be due to the fact that Zoom technology has opened doors and opportunities for learners who can have their pick of tutors from anywhere in the world. Conversely, we have gained students from places far removed from the Central Belt of Scotland. There could also be a sense of exhaustion after the the novelty of Zoom learning wore off, with a desire to move to other modes of learning.

Our plan for session 2022-2023 is to return to face to face classes in September with tea and coffee at the break. Our social and club aspect will be more inclusive for that change. We will offer some online classes for those who prefer that experience, business model and costs permitting.

Efforts will be made during the summer to promote GFW to encourage existing members to return and new members to join up. This will be helped by our new website, summer workshops for juniors and adults and live events which will take place over the summer.

Appendix 1 - Tutors

Senior Tutors	Instrument
Nigel Gatherer	Mandolin and Whistle
Alan Shute	Accordion and Harmonica
Finlay Allison	Fiddle, Ukulele, Guitar and Mandolin
Daniel Thorpe	Fiddle

Tutors	Instrument
Sarah Alexander	Accordion
Amy Allison	Ukulele
Lesley Alton	Mandolin
Mike Bryan	Guitar
Jenn Butterworth	Guitar
John Carmichael	Accordion
Celine Donoghue	Tenor Banjo
Steve Fivey	Ukulele
Sandie Forbes	Fiddle
Sean Gray	Mixed Instrument/Guitar
Ron Jappy	Fiddle
Bernadette Kellermann	Fiddle
Graham MacKenzie	Fiddle
Katherine MacLeod	Whistle/Mixed Instrument
Rua MacMillan	Fiddle
Andrew MacPherson	Whistle
Calum McIlroy	Mandolin
Sarah Markey	Whistle
Gordon Melrose	Ukulele
Garry McFadden	5 String Banjo
Ian Murray	Ukulele
John Newman	Guitar
Martin O'Neill	Bodhran
Hannah Rarity	Song
Zach Ronan	Accordion
Laura Beth Salter	Mandolin
Eddie Seaman	Whistle
Owen Sinclair	Mandolin
Brodie Smith	Ukulele
Jamie Smith	Fiddle
Rhona Stevens	Guitar
Patricia Strain	Cello/Fiddle
Emma Tomlinson	Viola
Ryan Young	Fiddle
Callum Younger	Bodhran

Appendix 2 - Instruments

Instruments

Accordion
Banjo – Tenor
Banjo – 5 String
Bodhran
Ceilidh Band
Cello
Fiddle
Guitar
Mandolin
Mixed Instrument
Song
Ukulele
Viola
Whistle

Junior Instruments

Fiddle
Guitar
Whistle

Appendix 3 – Term Dates 2021-22

2021

Wk	TERM 1 MONDAYS	TERM 1 WEDNESDAYS	Wk
1	30 August	01 September	1
2	06 September	08 September	2
3	13 September	15 September	3
4	20 September	22 September	4
	<i>No Classes – Sep Wkd</i>	<i>No Classes</i>	
5	04 October	06 October	5
	<i>No Classes – School Hols</i>	<i>No classes</i>	
6	18 October	20 October	6
7	25 October	27 October	7
	TERM 2 MONDAYS	TERM 2 WEDNESDAYS	
1	01 November	03 November	1
2	08 November	10 November	2
3	15 November	17 November	3
4	22 November	24 November	4
5	29 November	01 December	5
6	06 December	08 December	6
7	13 December	15 December	7

2022

Wk	TERM 3 MONDAYS	TERM 3 WEDNESDAYS	Wk
1	21 February	23 February	1
2	28 February	02 March	2
3	07 March	09 March	3
4	14 March	16 March	4
5	21 March	23 March	5
6	28 March	30 March	6
7	04 April	06 April	7
	TERM 4 MONDAYS	TERM 4 WEDNESDAYS	
1	25 April	27 April	1
	02 May No Class Bank Hol	04 May	2
2	09 May	11 May	3
3	16 May	18 May	4
4	23 May	25 May	5
5	30 May	01 June	6
6	06 June	08 June	7
7	13 June		