

The Lowland and Border Pipers' Society

Newsletter, September 2010

Newsletter Editor – Helen Ross, 16 Allanwater Apts, Bridge of Allan, Stirling FK9 4DZ.
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Secretary: Judy Barker secretary@lbps.net

Membership Secretary: Pete Stewart membership@lbps.net

Website: www.lbps.net (check it for goods for sale, and recent information). Anita Evans will be retiring as Web Manager at the end of October, and Pete Stewart will take over.

Collogue and AGM Saturday 6th November, 2010.

This will take place at the Army School of Piping, Inchdrewer House, 299 Colinton Rd, Edinburgh EH13 0LA. Enter via the main entrance to Redford Barracks on Colinton Road, and explain the purpose of your visit at the Guardroom.

Cost: £12 members, £15 non-members. Lunch (£5) and evening meal (£12) available, paid in advance.

Bookable on-line [here](#).

Some sets of old practice pipes belonging to the LBPS will be available for purchase at low prices.

The provisional programme is:

9.00-9.30 Greetings and coffee

9.30 President's address; Julian Goodacre opens the archive

10.00 Ross Anderson talks about and demonstrates the Pastoral and Union bagpipes.

11.15 Coffee break

11.30 Ross Anderson continues

12.30 AGM

1.30 Lunch break. A sandwich lunch will be available for those booking and paying in advance, price £5

2.30 Iain MacInnes (BBC Pipeline and renowned piper) talks about broadcasting pipe music, and introduces some archive recordings.

3.30 Playing sessions, including option of a slow session.

7.00 Buffet meal (price £15 paid in advance) and drinks.

7.30-10.30 Evening session led by Iain MacInnes

Tickets and meal bookings available on-line; [click here](#)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2010

Please table any motions for the AGM in writing before 30.10.2010. Send to Judy Barker at 6 Liggars Place, Dunfermline, Fife. KY12 7XZ.

The Chairman and Treasurer Reports will be published on the Society website (www.lbps.net) from Saturday 30th October 2010 for members to read in advance of the AGM.

Common Stock: Pete Stewart is the editor. Please send material to him by email, or post to: Stables Cottage, Winton Gardens, Pencaitland EH34 5AT (tel 01875 340188)

Subscription Renewals: If you have not renewed your subscription, please do so now or you will be removed from the mailing list. Subscriptions are £12 (UK) or £15 (overseas) and can be paid via the website or by post to Pete Stewart (as above). Cheques payable to LBPS.

New Publications: The new tune book *A New Way to Melrose* has now been published and is available from the website. It includes 142 tunes from various parts of the world, mainly inspired by music from the LBPS Melrose teaching weekends. The intention was that all the tunes in 'A New Way to Melrose' should be in the public domain.

It is ironic that one of the most popular tunes from the last teaching weekend, 'Paulo's Waltz', should have been written relatively recently and that we did not know the composer. We are indebted to Peter Dyson for pointing out the similarity to "Wals voor Polle" by Wim Poese. Wim plays several instruments, including Flemish bagpipes. There is no question but that these are the same tunes and we can only apologise for having failed to give Wim due credit for his fine tune. George Greig.

The yellow book *A Collection of Pipe Tunes* has been republished jointly between the Northumbrian Pipers Society and the LBPS, and is also available from our website. *The Wind in the Bellows*, the excellent new teaching tutor book (edited by Jock Agnew), is also available.

Youtube: LBPS now has a U-tube channel <http://www.youtube.com/user/LBPSoc>. Subscriptions are gradually increasing and LBPS videos are beginning to be tagged around the world. Subscribe to receive latest updates. Work is well underway on a major upgrade for the website to a fully-interactive community-based model, though it may be some time before it is live – watch this space.

Tunes from Around the World: Following the success of 'A New Way to Melrose', presenting lots of tunes from parts foreign, the possibility exists of producing a further volume. Thanks to Pete Stewart, we have a title 'Beyond the Borders'; now, all we need is the tunes. If members have tunes which they think should be included, please send them to George Greig. The tunes should be in the public domain.

RECENT EVENTS

Lennoxlove Concert June 2nd 2010 “A Grand concert of bellows piping”

Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful ambience of Lennoxlove House which was a perfect setting for the calibre of pipers who had been invited to play on a variety of pipes – Judy Barker opened the concert singing with Scottish smallpipes, Finn Moore played Lowland pipes with Sarah Hoy on fiddle, Andy May played Northumbrian pipes, Gary West played Scottish Smallpipes and Jarleth Henderson played Uilleann pipes. The breadth of repertoire and level of playing was tremendous and it was encouraging to see many non-pipers in the audience who were captivated by the music. We hope to return in the none too distant future. See the performances on our U Tube site (link above)

Common Ground Summer School, Aug 1st – 6th 2010

Five pipers, all LBPS members took part in the Common Ground Week held in the West Park Centre Dundee and a very enjoyable week it was. West Park Centre is a Conference centre situated close to the Botanical Gardens and a short taxi ride from the railway station and city centre. It consists of a large extended Victorian villa complete with meeting rooms, bar, dining rooms etc, set in its own grounds with ample parking. It also contains excellent accommodation blocks, all with ensuite comfortable rooms, the vast majority being singles. (The only problem is that there are no lifts, so if you are infirm you should request a downstairs room.)

The piping course was once again tutored by Neil Paterson who was very good. The structure was two morning sessions, one afternoon session, then a “talk to the piper” session. The morning sessions concentrated on new tunes, ear and music learning, group playing and harmonies. The Talk to the Piper was for individual problems and pipe maintenance.

Common Ground Week is an all encompassing experience with top class tuition being given in fiddle, mandolin, whistle, harmonica, ukelele, and bluegrass guitar and fiddle. This is complemented by an Arts section offering felting, weaving, song writing, painting etc. As can be seen this is a tremendous mix, and in the afternoon people are encouraged to try any other group they fancy. This gives a great opportunity to see other instruments, art techniques etc.

One of the afternoon sessions was called “mixed music” and all the pipers opted to attend this. It consisted of taking a tune, such as *The Water is Wide* and J. McLellan’s beautiful *My Hometown*, and then examining and exploring harmonies and playing arrangements with other instruments. We had six pipers (with smallpipes, border and Irish pipes), and guitars, fiddles, mandolin, accordion and whistles. These

were really enjoyable sessions and it was amazing to see how our instrument blended and enhanced in what you would imagine to be some quite bizarre combinations of instruments.

The week was further enhanced by a top class concert every evening, ranging from fiddle and harp to bluegrass. They were followed by sessions which were designed to include everyone.

From an LBPS piper's perspective this was a good week, five days of tuition and variety. It is interesting to note that three of our members attended from a considerable distance - Kincaig, Pembroke and Berlin; for them, the economics of the five days proved more beneficial than a weekend..

The only problem was that the course is organised by Living Tradition, and their website and booking arrangements could have been better. A similar week is planned for August 2011, with dates to be confirmed. ~ A truly enjoyable week. [Report by Tom Robertson]

Piping Live 10th August 2010

The LBPS hosted the Festival Club in the National Piping Centre on the evening of 10 August, with Martin Lowe as MC. The performers were: James Mackenzie, Craig Muirhead, Iain MacInnes, Judy Barker, Stephen Blake and 'Rura', Alan MacDonald, and Aly Hutton/Ross Ainslie and friends (8 in all). There was also an unplanned interlude during which a Sardinian reed pipe player performed and Barnaby Brown sang. There was a good attendance. The night became quite raucous towards 2.00am and it finally wound up at around 2.40am.

FUTURE SMALLPIPE EVENTS

Ian Kinnear Scottish Smallpiping Weekend 15-17th October 2010

This will take place at The Burn, Edzell, Angus. Robert Watt will be an additional tutor (www.robertwatt.co.uk). **The course will involve a mix of piping tuition along with a choice of workshops including session playing, playing with other instruments, harmonies, pipe maintenance & reed-making.** The cost of the course (£180) covers 2 nights accommodation in the wonderful "Burn" mansion house (<http://home.btconnect.com/theburn/index.html>), all meals, tuition and workshops. Places are limited, so please book early to avoid disappointment. Bookings to Ian, phone 01356 648865, email ian@scottishsmallpipes.com, snailmail Firwood, Inveriscandye Rd, Edzell, Angus, DD9 7TN

Teaching Weekend 26-27th February 2011

Details later

Annual Competition 2nd April 2011

Details later

Common Ground Summer School 2011

Details later.

Piping Live 9th August 2011

LBPS hosts the Festival Club at the Piping Centre in Glasgow in the evening.

Annual Collogue and AGM 5th November 2011

Venue and details to be decided.

Hamish Moore's Barga School 19th - 26th June 2011

Place - Barga, Tuscany, Italy.

Teaching in pipes, fiddle, flute, Gaelic and Scots Song, Scottish Step Dancing.

Pipe Tutors (so far) Allan MacDonald, Fin Moore and Hamish Moore.