

GREENTRAX CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2015

GREENTRAX TOP TWENTY 2015

01. Various	<i>Far, Far From Ypres</i>	CDTRAX1418
02. Barbara Dickson	<i>To Each & Everyone</i>	CDTRAX378
03. Various	<i>Celtic Women from Scotland</i>	CDGMP8012
04. Brian McNeil & Friends	<i>The Falkirk Music Pot</i>	CDTRAX383
05. Kathleen MacInnes	<i>Og Mhadainn Shambraidh</i>	CDTRAX294
06. Various	<i>A Highland Journey</i>	CDGMP8008
07. Eric Bogle	<i>By Request</i>	CDTRAX210
08. Various	<i>Favourite Scottish Songs</i>	CDGMP8016
09. Ian & Fraser Bruce	<i>The Best of Mrs Bruce's Boys</i>	CDTRAX385
10. Rura	<i>Break It Up</i>	CDTRAX364
11. Various	<i>Celtic Airs & Reflective Melodies</i>	CDGMP8015
12. Seudan	<i>Seudan</i>	CDTRAX362
13. Ross Munro	<i>Twisted Tradition</i>	CDTRAX384
14. Various	<i>Sandy Bells</i>	CDGMP8010
15. Various	<i>The Scottish Diaspora</i>	CDTRAX380
16. Various	<i>The Great Tapestry of Scotland</i>	CDTRAX372
17. Robin Laing	<i>Whisky for Breakfast</i>	CDTRAX361
18. Eric Bogle	<i>A Toss of The Coin</i>	CDTRAX375
19. Calum MacLean	<i>Field Recordings of Gaelic Music</i>	CDTRAX9026D
20. Eric Bogle	<i>Live at Stoneyfell Winery</i>	DVTRAX2022

THE GREENTRAX TEAM

IAN GREEN

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JUNE GREEN, Director
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ELAINE SUNTER

Accounts and Royalties
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PAT CLARK

Warehouseman and Packer

*And there's a hand, my trusty fiere, and gie's a hand o' thine!
And we'll tak' a right gude-willie waught, for auld lang syne.*



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
the Greentrax team – Ian & June, Elaine and Pat*



Seasonal Greetings

We would like to wish all our artists, media friends, business associates distributors and retailers a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year. As usual we are not sending out Christmas cards — a donation to Cancer Research will be made.

GREENTRAX 30TH ANNIVERSARY

ON 16th August, 2015, Ian realised he had been retired from the Police for exactly 30 years — 30 years in the Police and 30 years retired! That also means the Greentrax Recordings' 30th Anniversary is in 2016. Talk about 'how time flies' eh?

Because of the very tight financial situation, regrettably we have decided not to put a further strain on our finances and we will not have the usual

concert/party stramash in The Queen's Hall. We hope to celebrate the occasion with a special 'free' compilation album which will be available as a download through our website, plus a limited physical CD pressing. No doubt there will also be a party with a few close friends and artists. Our anniversary celebrations of the past have often been commented thus: 'Greentrax certainly know how to lay on a party'. ❀

Crisis in the recording industry

EARLY in 2015 we had to take the unenviable step of making our Promotions Person, Cath Mack, redundant but not without considerable deliberation on how to reduce our overheads to meet with declining CD sales, affecting the entire recording industry.

Sadly this step was not enough and in early 2016 we will be vacating our warehouse at Cockenzie Business Centre and our entire CD and DVD stock will be transferred to the extensive Gordon Duncan Distribution warehouse in Kilsyth. We will continue to administrate from our office in Cockenzie Business Centre from where we will also deal with promotional mailouts of new albums and Greentrax mail order.

Orders from Greentrax artists, our loyal retailers and distributors will be sent out by Gordon Duncan Distribution staff on our behalf but we will continue

to invoice all and collect payments. It will take a week or so for the transfer to be completed but normal service will be resumed as quickly as possible. Artists, especially, will have to be aware that they can no longer (often at very short notice) drop in past Cockenzie and pick up stock. Please be assured that this is not Ian Green preparing for retirement but merely a step to keep Greentrax viable in the current recording industry crisis. All record labels are struggling and most of the Scottish labels have discontinued new releases entirely. We will continue but on a much reduced release schedule.

Regrettably, after the transfer of stock, Pat will lose his position as Warehouseman but we hope he will continue to do some hours for us on a weekly basis — dealing with promo. mailouts, mail order etc. Pat's wife Rena is currently unwell but we are all rooting for her and wish her a speedy recovery. ❀



Greentrax releases in 2015

DURING 2015 we released 10 albums including the amazing *Falkirk Music Pot* by Brian McNeill and Friends which has been widely acclaimed; the Luke Daniels' *Tribute to William Hannab*, the latter being a great influence on the late Jimmy Shand; Ross Munro's musical journey on pipes *Twisted Tradition*; Fraser and Ian Bruce's compilation, *The best of... Mrs Bruce's Boys*, from their albums of the 80s plus more; Archie Fisher's eagerly awaited and beautifully laid back *A Silent Song*; Various Artists in *A Tribute in Music and Song To John Bellany*,

the international artist born in Port Seton; a brilliant new Gordon Gunn fiddle album *Wick to Wickham*; plus the remarkable Calum MacLean collection and two re-release CDs of *Pibroch* by George Moss and William MacLean, in the Scottish Tradition Series.

We also released *Favourite Scottish Songs – For a' the bairns and awbuddie else* on our Celtic Collections Series and mailed out over 500 free copies to Scottish schools. The Education Authority for Scotland showed no interest at all! ❀



ARTIST NEWS

THE Paul McKenna Band spent most of the summer and autumn entertaining visitors at Disneyland, Florida, USA, and shortly after their return were off for a tour of Australia.

Archie Fisher has spent much of late 2015 promoting his new album *A Silent Song* for Red House Records, in the USA and for Greentrax in the UK/Europe.

The stage version of *Far, Far From Ypres* continues to be presented in venues around Scotland with more bookings being confirmed for 2016, probably as a result of its huge success in the sold out main auditorium concert, Glasgow Royal Concert Hall, at Celtic Connections in 2015. Ian McCalman continues to direct a cast of many, including narrator Iain Anderson. Sales of the CD are reflected in the Top 20 List of 2015.

A Tribute in Music and Song to John Bellany was a very rewarding project to work on, both for Ian McCalman and myself, and we are delighted to say the Bellany Family, who attended the launch in the John Bellany Day Centre in Port Seton in October, absolutely love the album. Most of the tracks were donated free by labels and artists and were either John's favourites or special tribute tracks written/composed and recorded for the album. Ian

McCalman recorded most of the new tracks. Helen Bellany, John's widow, very generously presented the artists, labels, producer and designer with a John Bellany sketch and me with a watercolour. ❀

New releases for 2016

SCOTIA NOVA: Songs For The Early Days of a Better Nation, a companion to the Luath Press book: *Scotia Nova – Poems For The Early Days of a Better Nation*. The steering group for this



mammoth project was Gavin MacDougall (Luath), Alistair Findlay (poet), Mairi Campbell & Dave Francis (of The Cast), Ian McCalman (producer) and myself. Invitations were sent out to songwriters and eventually 18 songs were selected, most of them recorded and produced by Ian McCalman. We believe the results are stunning and an outstanding album will be launched at a concert highlighting the songs at Celtic Connection on 20th January, 2016.

An album of top pipers is being licensed from The Lowland and Border Pipers' Society, which has been produced by Iain MacInnes and Hamish Moore. A very exciting project. ❀