

GREENTRAX CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER 2016

GREENTRAX TOP TWENTY 2016

01. Various	<i>Far, Far From Ypres</i>	CDTRAX1418
02. Eric Bogle	<i>Voices</i>	CDTRAX391
03. Various	<i>Celtic Women from Scotland</i>	CDGMP8012
04. Various	<i>A Highland Journey</i>	CDGMP8008
05. Archie Fisher	<i>A Silent Song</i>	CDTRAX388
06. Kathleen MacInnes	<i>Summer Dawn</i>	CDTRAX294
07. Various	<i>Greentrax 30th Anniversary CD</i>	CDTRAXS8616
08. Gordon Gunn	<i>Wick to Wickham</i>	CDTRAX381
09. Rura	<i>Break It Up</i>	CDTRAX364
10. Various	<i>Celtic Airs & Reflective Melodies</i>	CDGMP8015
11. The McCalmans	<i>Lost Tracks</i>	CDTRAX393
12. Various	<i>Traditions of Tìree</i>	CDTRAX9027
13. Various	<i>Sandy Bells</i>	CDGMP8010
14. Paul McKenna Band	<i>Elements</i>	CDTRAX373
15. Various	<i>Scotia Nova</i>	CDTRAX387
16. Tony McManus	<i>Makers Mark</i>	CDTRAX331
17. Lowland & Border Pipers Society – <i>Reclaimed</i>		CDTRAX390
18. Tony McManus	<i>Mysterious Boundaries</i>	CDTRAX376
19. Eric Bogle	<i>At This Stage</i>	CDTRAX286
20. Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band – <i>Revisited</i>		CDTRAX389

THE GREENTRAX TEAM

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*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.*



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**CHRISTMAS
Newsletter 2016**



*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 Healthy and Happy New Year. We are especially pleased to do so in this our 30th Anniversary Year. As usual we are not sending out Christmas cards – a donation to Cancer Research will be made.

GREENTRAX 30TH ANNIVERSARY

'The best laid schemes o' mice and men gang aft aglae' applied to our 30th Anniversary CD which we had hoped to give away free. Although we were unable to do this for copyright reasons, we did a massive mail-out of over 600 CDs to the media, distributors and many retailers, plus of course the principal artists who feature on the double CD: 'GREENTRAX 30TH ANNIVERSARY – THE SPECIAL PROJECTS'.

The album consists of one track from each of thirty 'special projects' Greentrax has undertaken over the years, such as Gaelic Women, Scots Women, Scottish Women, Steele The Show, Far, Far From Ypres, Scots

in The Spanish Civil War, The Nineties Collection, People and Songs of The Sea, Bah! Humbug, The Hamish Henderson Tribute Album, the Eric Bogle Box Set, the Scottish Tradition Series, the Celtic Collections Series, the three Tapestry companion albums and more. fRoots described the album as: 'A fascinating snapshot of their history... a good Christmas present for all your friends'. We were able to partially fulfil our promise and from its release (and currently) every Greentrax mail order customer who orders two or more albums from our huge catalogue receives a free 'Special Projects' album (CDTRAXS8616). Get your order in now. ❁

Greentrax on a good financial footing again

THE steps taken in 2015 to reduce our overheads were insufficient and it became clear that further stringent measures had to be taken, so early in 2016 we transferred all our stock to our Scottish distributor: Gordon Duncan Distribution at Kilsyth, Near Glasgow, with whom we have an excellent relationship, and sadly closed down our warehouse.

We continue to administer Greentrax from our office here at Cockenzie Business Centre but closure of the warehouse meant re-assigning Pat Clark's role to promotional mail-outs and mail order, which thankfully has dramatically increased in 2016.

Elaine continues as Accounts and Royalties person, while I have taken over some of the

promotion work and all that goes with being the Managing Director.

I am pleased to say that after a couple of years in the red we are currently back in the black and once again on a secure financial footing. Restraint is necessary, however, because the world of the recording industry is still very volatile. Artists are reminded that they can no longer drop into our Cockenzie office to pick up stock, which now has to be ordered from Kilsyth and either delivered to us or the artist's home address, since all orders are processed by Gordon Duncan Distribution. We provide all invoices and payment must be made to Greentrax. An order from artists would be appreciated. ❁



Greentrax releases in 2016

THE improved financial situation has allowed us to be more adventurous, especially in the latter part of 2016.

Releases for the whole year were: *Reclaimed – Pipe Music & Song From The Scottish Borders* CDTRAX390 (top pipers and singers); *Scotia Nova, Songs For The Early Days of a Better Nation* CDTRAX387 (many of Scotland's best songwriters); *Traditions of Tirie* CDTRAX9027 (Singers, Storytellers and Piping – Scottish Tradition Series); *Revisited – Edinburgh City Police Pipe*

Band CDTRAX389 (five times world pipe band champions); *Greentrax 30th Anniversary – The Special Projects* CDTRAXS8616 (referred to elsewhere); *Voices – Eric Bogle with John Munro* CDTRAX391 (released to coincide with their short visit to the UK – selling like hotcakes); *The Music and The Land – The Concert – Freeland Barbour and Friends* CDTRAX392 (a cracker with top guests); and *Lost Tracks – McCalmans* CDTRAX393 (tracks never released on any previous McCalmans' album – flying out the door). ❁

ARTIST NEWS

WE were saddened by the death of Angus R. Grant of Shooglenify in October, 2016. Angus was a lovely man and a talented musician and composer. He will be sorely missed. Angus was, like myself, one of the few people on the planet that did not own a mobile phone!

Dick Gaughan has suffered ill-health for some months which has greatly affected his ability to gig throughout 2016. A benefit concert in the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh, on 27th November, with a cast of many, was arranged. John Barrow was the man behind it with Ian McCalmans stage managing.

Eric Bogle and Peter Titchener performed at the Lorient Celtic Music Festival in August and were then joined by John Munro, whose arrival was delayed due to medical treatment, for two sell-out Queen's Hall concerts in Edinburgh. The atmosphere in the Hall was electric and the trio got a standing ovation on both nights. The trio moved on to Dublin and then Belfast for Battle of the Somme commemoration concerts. It was great to see them and their spouses after a long absence but it is unlikely we'll see them in concert here in Scotland again.

Ian Green was honoured to be invited to release the Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band compilation album ('Revisited') by Mary and P.M. Iain McLeod, not only because they were so successful in the 60's and 70's but also because Ian served in Edinburgh City Police alongside Iain and other Band members. This was a real pleasure.

The 'Far, Far From Ypres' album (CDTRAX1418) has topped our 'Top Twenty' list for the second year running – quite remarkable. The stage show will be going on an extended tour of Scotland in 2018 with Ian McCalmans again at the helm. If you see this coming to your local theatre do not hesitate to book seats because it is an awesome stage show.

Ian McCalmans (you cannot keep the man down) spent a lot of time early this year searching through old studio tapes, CDs, DAT tapes etc. for tracks not previously released on any of the McCalmans' 26 albums. The result is a CD: 'Lost Tracks' (CDTRAX393) consisting of 19 tracks of the three McCalmans' line-ups over 46 years. It is dedicated to the sorely missed Derek Moffat and Nick Keir who are of course featured on the album along with Hamish Bayne, Stephen Quigg and Ian himself. Vintage stuff and an excellent album.

Steven Hannah, Manager of Sandy Bell's Bar in Edinburgh continues to sell loads of the Sandy Bell's Ceilidh album, first released in 1977, but still as fresh as day one.

Several exciting new albums in the pipeline for 2017 so watch our website, maintained and regularly up-dated by the computer wizard Kenny Fraser, who has done wonders for our mail order business.

Ian was honoured to receive the Hands Up For Trad 'Landmark Award' in 2016 and a bit of fun was had when Simon Thoumire made the presentation at the Greentrax office in the presence of several invited friends. ❁