

GREENTRAX TOP TWENTY 2017

01. Various	<i>Far, Far From Ypres</i>	CDTRAX1418
02. Various	<i>Celtic Women from Scotland</i>	CDGMP8012
03. Various	<i>Greentrax 30th Anniversary</i>	CDTRAXS8616
04. Eric Bogle	<i>Voices</i>	CDTRAX391
05. Nick Keir	<i>Nick Keir</i>	CDTRAX397
06. Alan Bell	<i>The Cocklers</i>	CDTRAX394
07. The McCalmans	<i>Lost Tracks</i>	CDTRAX393
08. Various	<i>Sandy Bells</i>	CDGMP8010
09. Barbara Dickson	<i>To Each & Everyone</i>	CDTRAX378
10. Matt Tighe	<i>Matt Tighe</i>	CDTRAX395
11. Fraser/Ian Bruce	<i>The Best of Mrs Bruce's Boys</i>	CDTRAX385
12. Kathleen MacInnes	<i>Summer Dawn</i>	CDTRAX294
13. Eric Bogle	<i>By Request</i>	CDTRAX210
14. Robin Laing	<i>Whisky For Breakfast</i>	CDTRAX361
15. Various	<i>A Highland Journey</i>	CDGMP8008
16. Various	<i>The Scottish Diaspora</i>	CDTRAX380
17. Tony McManus	<i>Makers Mark</i>	CDTRAX331
18. Archie Fisher	<i>A Silent Song</i>	CDTRAX388
19. Rura	<i>Break It Up</i>	CDTRAX364
20. Eric Bogle	<i>At This Stage</i>	CDTRAX286

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Christmas Newsletter 2017



A painting from June Green's recent artistic years.

*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.*

Seasonal Greetings Elaine and Ian 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. As usual we are not sending out Christmas cards – a donation to Cancer Research will be made.

THE SADNESS OF 2017

2017 turned out to be the saddest in the history of Greentrax. In February June and Ian said goodbye to their wee pal Mairibeg – their good natured, loyal and loving Westie, when she finally succumbed to her medical problems. June and Ian were devastated but worse was to come, however, when in September Ian's wife and fellow director June was admitted to the Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, yet again, because of fluid gathering in her lower legs, plus severe fatigue. After a brave fight, June died on 7th October. Hundreds of cards, e-mail, Facebook and telephone messages of support for Ian and his family plus Greentrax were received – an amazing tribute to June. It was impossible to reply to everyone but the support was greatly appreciated and gave strength. There was a huge turnout for June's funeral on 18th October and daughter Linda bravely paid a lovely tribute to her Mum. The part June played in supporting

Ian in the Greentrax venture should never, ever be underestimated.

In between times, Pat Clark's wife Rena died of cancer and shortly after Pat, who had worked for Greentrax for 17 years, was diagnosed with a brain tumour and died a few weeks later. Ian and Elaine attended both funerals and their thoughts are with the family, who must have been devastated by the loss of Rena and Pat in such a short time.

Ian returned to the Greentrax office in late October where he gains some relief through his work schedule and is now more grateful than ever that he did not retire at 65! He also enjoys the company of the remaining Greentrax employee and friend, Elaine Sunter, who carried the full load while Ian was off work. Ian finds life at home difficult on his own but receives amazing support from his family and friends.

MAY THEY ALL REST IN PEACE.

Greentrax after the stock transfer to Kilsyth

In 2015 Greentrax closed its warehouse and transferred all stock to Gordon Duncan Distribution in Kilsyth. The transfer was smooth and very quickly the new system of orders being handled by G.D.D., while Greentrax handled all the invoicing and administration from their office in Cockenzie Business Centre, was running efficiently. On occasions mail orders, which are very much on the increase these days, may be delayed for a day or two but Greentrax is still maintaining a very quick and efficient service. Throughout 2017 all mail orders of two or more Greentrax CDs has been automatically augmented with a free copy of our '30th Anniversary' compilation (CDTRAXS8616). This offer ends on 31st December, 2017. Artists

should remember that they can no longer call at our office to collect stock without first allowing us to order the CDs from Kilsyth. A warm welcome is extended to artists to drop in to the office for a wee chat with Elaine and Ian and orders from artists are always most welcome.

The reduction of the huge warehouse overheads at Cockenzie has resulted in Greentrax returning to a good financial footing as stated in the 2016 Christmas Newsletter. A slimmed-down and more efficient Greentrax looks forward to 2018 when it is hoped that the improvement in CD sales, mainly through mail order companies, will continue. A feeling that the worst is past exists within the recording industry.

Greentrax releases in 2017

In February Greentrax was delighted to release a fine album of new songs by the brilliant singer/songwriter and Ex-Blackpool Taverner, Alan Bell – 'The Cocklers' (CDTRAX394); in June Greentrax assembled a double CD album of Nick Keir's songs, from his solo albums and tracks from The McCalmans' albums and released 'Nick Keir - 1953 to 2013' (CDTRAX397 – a double album for the price of one); June saw the re-release of 'Gaelic Stories by Peter Morrison' (CDTRAX9014) from the Scottish Tradition Series, previously available only

on cassette; in August it was time to re-release 'The Best of Matt McGinn – Volume 2' (CDTRAX253), which marked the 40th Anniversary of Matt's death; a debut album by the talented young English fiddler Matt Tigbe (CDTRAX395), produced by the dynamic Brian McNeill, released in September and was the final release of 2017. Each of these albums is highly recommended. Other albums were put on hold because of June Green's poor health and Ian's added responsibility of taking care of her at home and subsequently visiting her in hospital.

NEW FOR 2018

At the time of going to print, Ian with assistance from journalist Jim Gilchrist, was selecting tracks for an album called 'Scotland's Voices', to be released as a companion to a painting of the same title by artist Alexander ('Sandy') Moffat, on show in the Saltire Society, Edinburgh. The painting is of a large group portrait of singers and musicians Hamish Henderson 'discovered' in the 1950's. Permission has been granted to use an image of the painting on the front cover of the CD and the singers on the compilation will include such stalwarts as Jeannie Robertson, Belle Stewart, Jean Redpath, Willie Scott, Jimmy McBeath, Davie Stewart, Hamish Henderson and several others. More information to follow on this exciting early 2018 release.

Also at the planning stage is a new album by Duncan McCrone and his musical buddies. Duncan is a well known songwriter with many great songs to his credit.

A double CD of the full stage presentation of 'Far, Far From Ypres', which will include all the songs and Iain Anderson's narration, is currently being planned by Ian McCalman, producer of the stage show (see Artist News for more information).

A debut album by the brilliant Gaelic singer Sineag MacIntyre is also eagerly anticipated for release in 2018. Sineag has taken part in some of the 'Far, Far From Ypres' stage shows.

ARTIST NEWS

A whole bunch of Greentrax artists attended the Celtic Colours Festival in Cape Breton this year, including Margaret Stewart, Cathy-Ann MacPhee, Allan MacDonald, Hamish Moore, Paul McKenna

and Seudan. Apparently a great success as usual.

Sadly, not long after Greentrax released The Edinburgh City Police Pipe Band 'Re-Visited' compilation, Pipe Major Iain McLeod passed away, after a fall at home. Excellent feedback has been received about the release of this quite unique album, which should be in the collection of all piping enthusiasts.

Dick Gaughan continues to make progress with his health problem and in October/November rehearsed for and then took part in the 'Far, Far From Ypres' stage show, presented to a capacity audience in Irvine on 11th November. Sales of the CD (CDTRAX1418) were brisk. Further stage shows are planned for 2018 – details to follow. Ian McCalman does sterling work as producer of the show, with Iain Anderson (narrator) and the whole cast rising to every occasion. You really must see this show before the WW1 Anniversary ends.

Brian McNeill has had another whirlwind year with tours of America and Europe – he never lets the dust settle that's for sure!

'Auld Hat New Heids' (Fraser and Ian Bruce, Pete Clark and Gregor Lowrey) continue to entertain audiences around Scotland and the cover of their album of the same title (on Rickety, Rackety Records) is a 'who's who' of many years of the folk scene and beyond. Find Ian Green in the collage and the first three entries will each receive a free '30th Anniversary' CD (CDTRAXS8616). See also Fraser & Ian Bruce – 'The Best of Mrs Bruce's Boys' and the Bruce and Walker combination CD/DVD – 'Born To Rottenrow' (DVTRAX2023) which includes great songs by the two Ians.