

ANNUAL REPORT  
GLASGOW FIDDLE WORKSHOP  
2015 – 2016



June 2016

CHARITY NUMBER: SCO29502

## CONTACT DETAILS

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## **Office Address and Class Venue**

**Glasgow Kelvin College,  
East End Campus  
John Wheatley Building,  
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Glasgow, G31 3SR**

## **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Our Memorandum and Articles of Association states these as:

The advancement of education and of the arts, heritage and culture, and in furtherance thereof the company will undertake:-

- To promote an understanding and appreciation of Scottish traditional music.
- To provide opportunities for learning to play and sing Scottish traditional music, with an emphasis on learning to play by ear.
- To create a community of people with a common interest in Scottish traditional music
- To forge links with other organisations who have similar interests.

## **GOVERNANCE**

In January 1994 the Glasgow Fiddle Workshop (GFW) was formed as a voluntary organisation with a core group of eight, and in November 1999, Glasgow Fiddle Workshop was reconstituted as a Charity. In May 2008 GFW was reconstituted as a Company Limited by Guarantee.

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

The elected Board is responsible for managing Glasgow Fiddle Workshop. The Board holds regular formal meetings throughout the year and ad-hoc meetings as required. Office bearers are nominated and voted in at Annual General Meeting. The Board has the power to co-opt volunteers and nominate Directors throughout the year.

### **MEMBERSHIP 2015-2016**

Chair:	Fenella Rennie
Treasurer:	Ronnie Melrose
Company Secretary:	Cliff Uney

Board Members:	Mike Turner, John Hill, Rita Warrilow, Linda Caren, Lorraine Campbell.
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## **THANKS TO VOLUNTEERS**

As in past years, dozens of members volunteered to man our 2 stands at Celtic Connections, informing and persuading the public about what we can offer them. Once again, scores of new members signed up to learn with us, as a result.

We also couldn't manage without those members who help with special events and week to week activities. Thank you all very much indeed.

## STAFF

Coordinator:	Craig Macdonald
Administrator:	Caroline Watson
Senior Tutor: Monday	Nigel Gatherer
Senior Tutor: Wed	Finlay Allison
Senior Tutor: (Juniors)	Dan Thorpe
Other tutors:	See appendix 1.

### 1. THANKS TO TUTORS

Thanks particularly to our Senior Tutors – Nigel, Finlay and Dan for their hard work, enthusiasm and support for GFW. Without them the organisation would cease to exist.

Thanks also to all the other GFW tutors whose wide variety of musical expertise and teaching styles are the lifeblood of the organisation.

### 2. THE OFFICE TEAM

Craig Macdonald is GFW's part time Coordinator, as well as a member of GFW. He is always there, making sure everything that needs to be done is done. We would have been lost without him in the continuing process of adjusting to new premises. I extend my personal thanks to Craig for making my job so much easier.

Caroline Watson has been outstanding as GFW's Administrator during the year. Sadly she needs to leave for personal reasons, and we are in the process of sourcing a replacement.

Karen McGavock provides the completely indispensable tea and coffee service, faultlessly. Thanks from all of us.

## OUR OBJECTIVES

GFW places an emphasis on increasing participation and removing barriers to learning music. We have a stock of instruments, which are available for hire to learners. Teaching is carried out 'by ear' and sheet music is provided to back up teaching at the end of lessons or workshops. Students are given the opportunity to make recordings of their tutor playing tunes, to have for practice at home.

We teach juniors and adults, those with little experience of music and those with some, or many, musical skills. We aim to provide a variety of paths by which students can choose to progress within the organisation.

Teaching centres around Scottish traditional music although our tutors do introduce students to other related styles and traditions, such as Irish, American, English, Shetland and Scandinavian. This places Scotland's music within a broader cultural context and helps learners to understand why musical traditions from across the country vary in style and history. Effectively, learning is both formal and informal.

# ACHIEVING OUR OBJECTIVES BY TEACHING, LEARNING and PARTICIPATION

## 1. WEEKLY CLASSES AT GLASGOW KELVIN COLLEGE

The core activity of GFW is the provision of weekly classes on Monday and Wednesday evenings. In addition a Tutor led slow session is offered before the start of classes each evening, and a fiddle class is offered to parents during junior class teaching.

### Adult Classes

1. Fiddle classes from Absolute Beginner to Advanced, including Technique classes.
2. Ukulele classes at 5 levels.
3. Mandolin and Accordion at three levels: beginners, improvers and intermediate.
4. Bodhran, Guitar and Whistle classes at beginner and improver/intermediate level.
5. Cello, Tenor Banjo, 5 String Banjo, Harmonica, Song Class, Ceilidh Band and mixed instrument class.

### Junior Classes

1. Guitar and Tin Whistle at single level classes
2. Fiddle classes at the following levels: absolute beginners, beginners, improving beginners, intermediate and advanced.

🚩 **New classes can be set up where both demand and resource exist.**

## 2. TUTORS

All our tutors are musicians of a high calibre who perform professionally or semi-professionally. Many have undertaken the degree course in traditional music. All are selected for their experience and understanding of traditional music. We are very proud of our tutors, who include past winners of the BBC Young Traditional Musician of the Year Award.

Tutors deliver high quality teaching for learning, to maintain a core GFW curriculum. Senior Tutors provide Tutor training to assist in this process. Guidelines are made available for each of the levels and classes are evaluated through feedback from learners and tutor meetings.

All tutors are appointed in line with GFW Tutor Policy and contract. The policy covers "best practice" artistic and administrative guidelines and Disclosure Scotland. Regular senior tutor meetings and tutor meetings are held to allow tutors to discuss the curriculum, events and any aspects of teaching and learning with a view to improving the service to learners.

### 3. INFORMAL LEARNING AND PARTICIPATION

#### Weekly Sessions

- ❖ **Islay Inn - Argyle Street**  
Every Monday after classes, and earlier if classes are not on, Alan Jones and Alan Shute lead a "session" in the Islay Inn. This is very well attended, attracting tourists, visiting musicians and a regular cohort of players, and is sponsored by the Islay Inn.
- ❖ **Bar Gumbo - Byres Road**  
A new venue was found for the Very Slow Session, sponsored by Bar Gumbo and operating twice a month till summer break and then to be re-evaluated. GFW also introduced the 'Early Bird' session 30 mins before the Very Slow Session once a month to teach a tune extremely slowly before session begins.

#### Events

- ❖ ***Scots Fiddle Festival, Edinburgh – November 2015***  
GFW provided 4 hours of tutor led sessions as part of the wider programme. This involved Sandie Forbes and Jamie Smith sitting in with sessions of adult learners to facilitate inclusive slow sessions. They were held in Summer Hall, Edinburgh and were well attended by patrons of the fiddle festival. These sessions led by GFW tutors at Scotland's only fiddle driven festival, is an opportunity for the organisation to publicise our ethos and classes as well as connecting with other organisations in attendance.
- ❖ ***Edinburgh Youth Gaitherin - April 2016***  
A group of 9 junior members attended this 4 day event which proved again to be a great success. Although not as much money as the previous year was raised from raffles and bake sales or donations from members, GFW was able to fund Daniel Thorpe (Senior Tutor), aided by a parent helper (Ruth Bacon), to take the group to a four-night attendance at this event in Edinburgh. GFW were able to subsidise the cost of the tutor, helper accommodation, travel and food. As well as taking part in workshops, our Juniors were able to visit Edinburgh Dungeon, go bowling and perform in the final concert as part of the course. This is a wonderful opportunity for the students to experience a short time away in a different environment where they can develop both their musical learning and their experience of working/living in a group setting. The combination of learning, independent responsibility and group living can only have a positive effect on their development as successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors.
- ❖ ***West End Festival, Glasgow- June 2015***

Our Family Ceilidh was again designed to showcase the talents of Junior members, as well as the rest of us dancing the night away to GFW tutor band. Book your ticket for this year.

In addition, an Informal GFW band, with Alan Shute once more leading them, led an open Air Ceilidh from the steps of Kelvingrove Gallery. This annual event attracts increasingly large participation from the public, and you can see over 100 dancers on Facebook!

#### ❖ ***Celtic Connections - January 2016***

This year we ran some very successful workshops at Celtic Connections. Nigel Gatherer's 'Big Workshop' had 70 people playing together. Dan Thorpe sold out his 'Come and Try' fiddle workshop, and we had 24 signups for fiddle afterwards. Finlay Allison ran 2 'Come and Try' and 1 beginner workshop and for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, a 2 day ukulele school with around 100 students. In February there were 24 in the absolute beginner ukulele class.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

### • ***Christmas Dinner December 2015***

An annual event again oversubscribed as ever. The Islay Inn do us proud with the meal and afterwards members provided the music.

### • ***Burns Supper January 2016***

Jack Westwood provided his usual sterling service, organising a truly memorable traditional occasion, enjoyed by all. Thanks to The Islay Inn for again sponsoring it.

## **REVIEW OF THE YEAR**

We are at last securely established at **John Wheatley College** for all classes, and for our office services.

## **MANAGEMENT**

Much clearer roles and responsibilities have been implemented with each Board member leading an aspect of GFW's work. This has been working very effectively and has provided additional support for senior tutors and administrative staff. We lost 2 board members, for personal reasons, and welcomed Rita Warrilow, Lorraine Campbell and Linda Caren, each of whom has already made significant contribution in their new roles.

## **FINANCES**

As the financial report and accounts show, our finances are in good health although there is no room for complacency. As usual, class fees will be reviewed during the summer break. Our new Treasurer, Ronnie Melrose has restructured our financial reporting, taking on much of the work himself, and keeping tight margins on track with the help of all the senior tutors and staff.

***Class Fees currently are:***

Adult Term	<b>£70</b>	7 Classes from 7:30 to 9:30 including half time break.
Additional Class	<b>£63</b>	Additional Class fees are for the same person learning more than one instrument in the same term. e.g. Monday Whistle, Wednesday Fiddle.
Concession Term	<b>£54</b>	Concessionary fee applies to those in receipt of state pension: students on a recognised full-time education course: and those in receipt of certain state benefits such as Jobseeker's allowance or Disability Living allowance.
Additional Concession	<b>£48</b>	
Junior Term	<b>£37</b>	Wednesday early evening 1 hour classes
Member Only	<b>£7</b>	Remain a GFW Member although not currently taking a class

### **GFW WEBSITE**

The website has had a fairly major overhaul with the support of Lesley Alton, Mike Turner and Ronnie Melrose. It is now working far more effectively with news, tutor information and other resources being added and updated more frequently and an easier to use layout. Improvements will now continue incrementally. It is agreed our social media presence needs to link to this resource more frequently and drive learners to the website for events and other news.

### **CLASSES AND LEARNER NUMBERS**

Learner numbers continue to see small but steady growth overall, with leavers more than matched by new members. Additional classes have been introduced in the most popular instruments to manage numbers. Thanks to our Volunteers, we always have an influx of new members following Celtic Connections. This time it was around 65. Slotting each into the right class is a marathon task for our Senior Tutors

*Accordion classes have attracted increasing numbers and we eventually appointed a third tutor to split the numbers to more manageable levels.*

*Numbers learning Cello have now produced an established class and 5 string banjo and harmonica are well established.*

*Wednesday Mixed Instrument class boasted a stunning 19 members at the last count and the Ceilidh band goes from strength to strength.*

*The success of Ukulele classes has been maintained as the popularity of this instrument gathers momentum. We now have 5 classes at different levels.*



*Pre class slow sessions on Mondays and Wednesdays are kept finely tuned by much effort from Nigel Gatherer as well as Finlay Allison and Alan Shute and have a big following.*

The "Very Slow Session" continued to be successful with 'Prepare for the Pub' class on a monthly basis at Hillhead Sports Club as well as pub sessions at the Curlers, Byres Road. Taught by Finlay Allison, the class helped introduce learners to regular tunes and build their confidence in playing with other instruments. A forced Venue change has led to the successful re-establishment of these activities at Bar Gumbo on Byres road, twice a month. A small contribution from each attendee helps to pay for costs.

### **25TH ANNIVERSARY**

This year we mark the 25th year since a group of like-minded individuals got together to form what was to become the Glasgow Fiddle Workshop. The Board is marking this milestone with the "Big Bash" a night of food, drink, music and dancing at Oran Mor on Nov 25<sup>th</sup>. Now is the time to get your ticket if you do not yet have it.

### **PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE**

We recognise the need to demonstrate a network for progression, laterally as well as vertically, and Mixed Instruments and Ceilidh Band classes are part of this, as are our 2 Technique classes in fiddle. We are particularly focussed on making sure each member gets an experience which makes them want to stay. Achieving more feedback from members is part of this, and we need to pursue it, with your help.

**Fenella Rennie**  
**Chair**  
**June 2016**

## Appendix 1 LEVELS - FIDDLE

**Absolute Beginners:** This class is for people who have never played the fiddle before. You will be taught how to hold the fiddle and the bow and learn to play some simple tunes by ear. Everything will be explained assuming no prior knowledge. Tutors will keep you enthused and practising effectively to get you well on the way to playing the fiddle with confidence. Due to the high number of students, and often varying degrees of skill, this class often splits in two to ensure a manageable number of students per class

**Improvers 1:** For those who have already completed the Absolute Beginners class and/or those who have played a little before. You should know how to hold the fiddle and bow and be able to play a couple of simple tunes at a slow pace. This class will work on simple tunes with an emphasis on creating good tone, tuning and confident playing. There will be a good deal of revision every week and constant work on scales and fingering. NB Probably only about 3 tunes per term will be worked on.

**Improvers 2:** For those who have already completed Improvers 1 level class. You should have a bit more confidence with fiddle and bow and be able to play a few simple tunes at a slow pace. You will be improving your ability to understand and remember tunes by ear and be building your confidence. This class will continue work on simple tunes emphasising tone, tuning, confident playing and building your repertoire. There will continue to be lots of revision every week and continual work on scales and fingering. NB Probably only about 3 or 4 tunes per term will be worked on.

**Improvers 3:** For those who have completed the two previous standards and have moved to being able to play a few tunes with reasonable confidence at a slow pace. This class will continue to work on simple tunes with an emphasis on creating good tone, tuning and fluency of playing. You may also be introduced to some basic bowing and simple ornamentation. There will be revision every week of scales and tunes already covered. NB Probably only 3 tunes or 4 per term will be worked on.

**Intermediate 1:** This class is for those able to learn simple tunes comfortably by ear and play them fluently with simple bowing and good tuning. This class will work on tunes in a wider variety of tune types and keys. You will look at bowing and ornamentation in more depth. There will be lots of revision and repetition each week. NB About 4 or 5 tunes per term will be worked on.

**Intermediate 2:** This class is for those who feel comfortable with the previous classes and can play a wide range of tunes with confidence, in tune and with fluent bowing style. The class will assist in developing a traditional style of playing, increasing knowledge of ornamentation and repertoire. You will learn a variety of tune types and may look at some of the less familiar, more difficult key signatures. Probably one new tune each week but all work will be continually revised.

**Intermediate 3:** This class is for those who feel comfortable with the previous classes and can play a wide range of tunes with confidence, in tune and with fluent bowing style. The class will assist in developing a traditional style of playing, increasing knowledge of ornamentation and repertoire. You will learn a variety of tune types and may look at some of the less familiar, more difficult key signatures. At least one new tune each week but all work will be continually revised.

**Advanced:** This level is for students who have a wide knowledge of techniques and repertoire specific to Scottish traditional style. You should be able to learn easily by ear and have some reading ability. This class will focus on advanced tunes from the solo fiddling repertoire and will assume good technical knowledge. You will learn a variety of tune types and look at some of the more difficult key signatures.

**Technique 1:** For those of standard Improving Beginner or Intermediate 1. This Class will focus on reinforcing basic techniques such as intonation, tone and fiddle hold. The class will also look at simple bowing and ornamentation in detail. Work is based around tunes but with emphasis on different techniques within tunes rather than building a repertoire. A new teaching point will be introduced each week but the emphasis will not be on acquiring lots of new tunes.

**Technique Advanced:** For those of standard Intermediate 2 and above. Students should ensure they have a good basic knowledge of Scottish fiddling techniques and a little music reading ability before joining this class. Work is based around tunes but with emphasis on different techniques within tunes rather than building a repertoire. Teaching points will be technical and the class aim will not necessarily be on acquiring lots of new tunes.

#### **PLEASE NOTE**

**It is not expected that students will automatically move up a class level each year/term. Students should remain in the same class until they feel ready to move up to the next level. Speak to either your own tutor or a Senior Tutor for advice on which level would suit you best.**

## Appendix 2 GFW TUTORS JUNE 2016

### MONDAY NIGHT CLASSES - Senior Tutor Nigel Gatherer

CLASS	TUTOR	ROOM
ACCORDION - BEGINNERS	JOHN CARMICHAEL	MG05
ACCORDION - IMPROVERS	ALAN SHUTE	MG007
BODHRAN - BEGINNERS	EAMMON NUGENT	CONSTRUCT RM3 Grnd Flr
BODHRAN - INTERMEDIATE	MARTIN O'NEIL	COMMON ROOM Grnd Flr
CELLO	TRISH STRAIN	MF16
GUITAR - IMPROVERS	JOHN NEWMAN	MG21
GUITAR - INTERMEDIATE	JENN BUTTERWORTH	MF26
MANDOLIN -ABS	OWEN SINCLAIR	MF27
MANDOLIN -IMPROVERS	NIGEL GATHERER	MG20
MANDOLIN - INTERMEDIATE	LAURA BETH SALTER	MF25
TENOR BANJO 1	CELINE DONOGHUE	MG18
TENOR BANJO 2	COLETTE HUNTER	MF10
UKULELE - ABS	FINLAY ALLISON	MF12 & MF14
UKULELE - BEGINNERS	GORDON MELROSE	MF11
UKULELE - IMPROVERS 1	FINDLAY NAPIER	UPSTAIRS STAFF ROOM
UKULELE - IMPROVERS 2	MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN	MF15
UKULELE - INTERMEDIATE	IAN MURRAY	LIBRARY Grnd Flr
WHISTLE - BEGINNERS	EDDIE SEAMAN	MG06
WHISTLE - IMPROVERS	KATHERINE MacLEOD	MF24
MIXED INSTRUMENT	ALAN JONES	FIRST AID RM Grnd Flr
SCRATCHY NOISES	SELF-LED	MG19

**MONDAY NIGHT TOTAL OF 21 CLASSES****WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES (JUNIORS) - Senior Tutor Dan Thorpe**

JUNIOR FIDDLE - Absolute Beginners	GRAHAM MACKENZIE	MF24
JUNIOR FIDDLE - BEGINNERS	EMMA TOMLINSON	MF26
JUNIOR FIDDLE - LEVEL 1	SANDIE FORBES	MG19
JUNIOR FIDDLE - LEVEL 2	MAIRI VOINOT	MG18
JUNIOR FIDDLE - LEVEL 3	EILIDH RAMSAY	MF16
JUNIOR FIDDLE - Intermediate	DANIEL THORPE (SNR)	MF12/14
JUNIOR FIDDLE - Advanced	RUAIRIDH MACMILLAN	MG05
JUNIOR GUITAR - 1	CHRISTOPHER FERRIE	MF10
JUNIOR GUITAR - 2	PABLO LaFUENTES	MF25
JUNIOR WHISTLE	KATHERINE MACLEOD	LIBRARY
PARENT'S FIDDLE	JAMIE SMITH	COMMON ROOM

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT JUNIOR TOTAL OF 11 CLASSES**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT CLASSES (ADULTS) - Senior Tutor Finlay Allison**

<b>CLASS</b>	<b>TUTOR</b>	<b>ROOM</b>
FIDDLE - ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS A	MAIRI VOINOT	MG18
FIDDLE - ABSOLUTE BEGINNERS B	GRAHAM MACKENZIE	MF24
FIDDLE - BEGINNERS	GRAINNE BRADY	MG21
FIDDLE - IMPROVER 1	EILIDH RAMSAY	MF16
FIDDLE - IMPROVER 2	EMMA TOMLINSON	MF26
FIDDLE - IMPROVER 3	FINLAY ALLISON (SNR)	MF10
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 1	JAMIE SMITH	MF15
FIDDLE - INTERMEDIATE 2	SANDIE FORBES	MG19
FIDDLE -INTERMEDIATE 3	FIONA CUTHILL	MG07
FIDDLE - TECHNIQUE 1	DANIEL THORPE	MF12/14
FIDDLE - TECHNIQUE ADVANCED	DOUGLAS LAWRENCE	MF11
FIDDLE - ADVANCED	RUAIRIDH MACMILLAN	MG05
CEILIDH BAND	JOHN CARMICHAEL	COMMON ROOM
HARMONICA	ALAN SHUTE	MF25
5 STRING BANJO	MARTIN MCLAUGHLIN	MF27
MIXED INSTRUMENT	KATHERINE MacLEOD	LIBRARY

**WEDNESDAY NIGHT TOTAL OF 16 CLASSES**