Drumshanbo Delighted

Nancy Woods

COINCIDENTALLY, AS I sat down to pen a few words about the Joe Mooney Summer School 2009, the Oct/Nov issue of Set Dancing News arrived in the post. There on the front cover I saw a brilliant picture titled *Drumshanbo Delight* taken on the High St at the open-air set dancing gathering which is now synonymous with the Joe Mooney Summer School.

Upon opening the glossy 'Set Dancing News', I found that a well known German set dancing journalist, Chris Eichbann, now living in Waterford had written a fantastic three page article extolling the joys of spending the week dancing sets with Pat Murphy. In it she says "Pat Murphy loves the Joe Mooney Summer School. It has grown from a small enterprise with humble numbers of set dancing enthusiasts to what it is now—a major player in Summer School listings, with Pat teaching there for nineteen years. What Pat loves is discernible to everyone, I would imagine- a welcoming homeliness, warm and gentle...Pat and his long standing dance partner for the week Catherine Curran, have certainly put their stamp on the workshops with meticulous work being done which no doubt is of particular interest to fledgling dancers form all over the world"

Chris also talked about the extra dance workshops: Maureen Culleton covering popular demand for 2-hand dances, Ger Butler with steps for sets and solo dances, Ronan Regan led a 3 hour workshop for Sean Nos dancing and our own Drumshanbo native

THIS YEAR'S PROGRAMME!

Saturday 18 July-Saturday 25 July 2009

Saturday
8.30 p.m. Traditional Failte Sessions on the High Street with Drumshanbo Comhaltas

Sunday
11.30 a.m. Aifreann An Lae le Cór agus Ceoltóirí san Eaglais Naomh Padraig .Followed by wreath laying ceremony at graveside of the late Joe Mooney.
4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Evening registration for classes and workshops. Venue: Arás Phádraig.
7.30 p.m. Official Opening of Summer School by Vincent Woods—Poet, playwright and Arts Show presenter. Venue: Ramada Hotel.
8.30 p.m. Opening Concert: Traditional group "At the Racket" Venue: Moorlands Room, Ramada Hotel.

Monday
9.00 a.m. Registration for set dancing and singing Community Centre.
Registration for whistle and flute in the Primary School.
Registration for all other classes in the Vocational School.
Set dancing commences at 9.30 a.m.
10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. Daily classes run Monday to Saturday inclusive. (Saturday classes finish at 12 noon.)
3.00 p.m. "Fiddle Styles of North Connaught"—Talk by Paddy Ryan, Oifigeach Cheoil, CCE. Venue: Arás Phádraig.
4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. 2 Hand Dances workshop with Maureen Culleton. Venue: Community Centre.
8.00 p.m. Fiddle Recital - Local fiddle players, tutors, and guest players. Venue: Ramada Hotel.
9.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. Set Dancing Ceilí. Ceol: "Annaly Ceilí Band". Fear an Tí: Pat Murphy.
Leitrim launch of Pat's new book of sets "Apples in Winter". Venue: Community Centre.

Tuesday
3.00 p.m. "Songs and Stories of Songs" with Gabriel Mc Ardle, Mai Hernon and guest singers. Venue: Arás Phádraig.
4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. 2 Hand Dances - Workshop - Maureen Culleton. Venue: Community Centre.
7.30 p.m. Youth Recital - Talented younger Leitrim musicians and visiting performers. Venue: Community Centre.
9.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. Set Dancing Ceilí. Ceol: "Micheál Sexton & Pat Walsh". Fear an Tí: Pat Murphy. Venue: Community Centre.

Wednesday
3.00 p.m. Trathnóna Gaelach - Ceol, Caint agus Sean Nós le Antaine Ó Farachain. Venue: Arás Phádraig.
4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Steps for Sets - Workshop - Ger Butler. Venue: Community Centre.
7.00 p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Ceili Dances with Maureen Mulvey-O'Leary. Venue: Community Centre.
8.00 p.m. Flute & Whistle Recital - Tutors, local and visiting musicians. Launch of new solo CD by John Wynne. Venue: Community Centre.
9.30 p.m. - 11.30 p.m. Set Dancing Ceilí. Ceol: "Copperplate". Fear an Tí: Pat Murphy. Venue: Community Centre.

Thursday
4.00 p.m. - 6.00 p.m. Solo Dances - Workshop - Ger Butler. Venue: Community Centre.
8.00 p.m. (Doors open 7.30) Grand Traditional Concert - a top class performance by Summer School tutors - the best of traditional music and song. Fear an Tí: Meati Jo Sheamuis - Raidio na Gaeltachta. Venue: Community Centre.

Friday
3.00 - 6.00 p.m. Traditional Guided Tour - with Michael Tubridy to homestead of John McKenna (Tents, Tarmon) and grave of Packie Duignan (Arigna). Pick up point: Community Centre.
3.30 - 6.30 p.m. Sean Nós Dancing - workshop by Ronan Regan. Venue: Community Centre.
7.00 - 8.30 p.m. Ceilí Dances with Maureen Mulvey-O'Leary. Venue: Community Centre.
7.30 p.m. - 9.30 p.m. Summer School BBQ at the Ramada Hotel Traditional group: "The Spinning Jennys"Venue: Ramada Hotel.
10.00 p.m. - 12.30 a.m. Set Dancing Ceilí
Ceol: "Swallows Tail". Fear an Tí: Pat Murphy.
Venue: Community Centre.

Saturday
5.00 p.m. Open Air Entertainment.
Traditional music and set dancing with the "Davey Ceilí Band". Venue: High Street.
10.00 p.m. - 12.30 a.m. "Slan Abhaile" - Set Dancing Ceilí.
Ceol: "Glenside Ceilí Band". Fear an Tí: Pat Murphy.
Venue: Community Centre.

CLASSES & TUTORS

Set Dancing	Pat Murphy
Button Accordian	Joe Burke Ann Conroy Burke Nuala Hehir
Concertina	Noel Hill Larry Kinsella Mairead Hurley
Fiddle	John Carthy Paddy Ryan Brendan McGlinchey Fiona Doherty Gerry Harrington Jacqui Martin Ronan Regan Irene Guckian
Flute	John Wynne Sarah Jane Woods Harry Bradley Bernie Flaherty
Tin Whistle	Michael Hurley Méabh Ni Lochlainn Dave Sheridan Aisling McPhillips Lorraine Sweeney Pádraig Sweeney Cian Kerins Mairead Whelan Yvonne Ward
Uilleann Pipes	Néilidh Mulligan Pádraig McGovern Brian McNamara
Harp	Grainne Hambly Sorcha Rooney
Piano Accordian	Charles O'Connor
Banjo	Damaris Woods Sean McCague
Mandolin	Bronagh McKenna
Bodhrán	Junior Davey Siobhán O'Donnell
Traditional Singing	Gabriel McArdle Mai Hernon Fionnuala Reilly
Sean Nós Singing	Antaine O'Faracháin

Maureen Mulvey—O Leary who added her expertise in Ceilí dance—Cross of Ardhoe and Glencar Reel amongst others. Chris commented on the exceptional attendance saying "work shops attracted an unprecedented influx of young dancers and that is mighty to see—that is what we want—Set Dance-the next generation!"

What took Chris and the busy committee by surprise this year was that in spite of the recession, cut-backs and talk of falling tourist numbers, the Joe Mooney Summer School was bigger and better than ever. A record number of over one thousand students registered for classes. Throughout the week students and visitors carrying various instruments were rambling through the streets, starting up sessions, attracting listeners of all ages. High St once again became the Mecca and platform for performers bringing together all nationalities—groups from Russia, Glasgow, France, Italy, Switzerland and not forgetting our Comhaltas friends from Belgium, Austria and the US.

Chris Eichbaun finishes with a thoughtful reflection on the week which we can all echo whole heartedly. "I miss the good company of cordial people form all corners of the earth, crafty music, bodies dancing round the house in a swirling mass, meeting in a a good-natured and jovial way. Drumshanbo has to get a place in the annals of set dancing and Summer School traditional music history as an utterly safe and embracing location that oozes nothing other that polite and harmonious Céad Mile Fáilte.

Drumshanbo delighted this July, see you all there next July for more delectable delights!

On the web:
www.joemooneysummerschool.com
www.setdancingnews.net