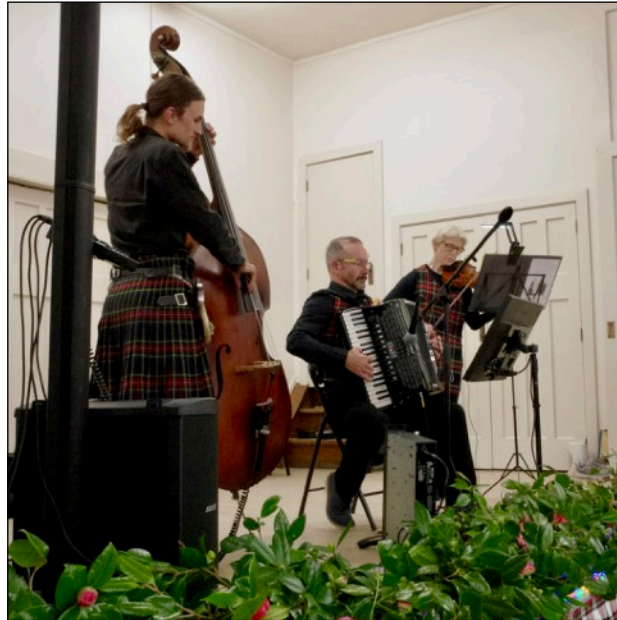


## Tawa SCD Club Annual Dance – 22 July 2024

Wow, what a night we had on Saturday! Not only did we have nine sets on the floor, a great programme of dances, and terrific music from a great band, but we had some extra excitement in the form of an evacuation of the hall on the orders of the Fire Brigade!



The band: Johnny Bourne, bass; Jason Morris, accordion;  
Hilary Ferral, fiddle

With the great programme that Catherine had put together, and prepared us for so thoroughly, the evening went really well, until one or two dances before supper, when an annoying sound was heard from somewhere behind the stage - loud and penetrating ... beep, beep, beep ... beep, beep, beep ... .



*"The Kissing Bridge"* (Photo by Joy)

Supper was brought out – and what a great supper it was! – much enjoyed by all. However the annoying alarm sound could not be silenced, so Fiona rang the fire service. And as supper was hurriedly cleared away, Catherine announced “*We don’t want to panic anyone, but we have been ordered by the fire brigade to evacuate the hall*”.



Everyone grabbed their coats and bags and trooped outside (Photo by Joy)



And the band played on ... ! (Photo by Désirée)

Of course, the band had brought their instruments out with them, so they struck up a tune: the next dance on the programme was to be “*Toast to the Mousies*”. Joy took a short video of them playing “*The Mousies*”, which you can [see here](#).



Before long, three fire engines arrived. Firemen in full gear checked out the hall, and after 10 minutes, the all clear was given. It seems that it was smoke detector in the childcare centre at the behind (and attached to) the back of the hall. But the alarm kept going!



Having confirmed there was no fire, they gave the all clear (Photo by Joy)

Dancing resumed, with still five sets on the floor. But because of the lost time, Catherine had to drop two dances off the programme, as we still had to be out of the hall by 11 pm. Although people seemed keen for a repeat of the final dance "*Trip to Timber Ridge*", we did not have time for it. Luckily the packing up and tidying was done in record time, and we made it out just before 11.



The final dance "*Trip to Timber Ridge*"





At the end of the night, the band received enthusiastic and prolonged applause

Despite the interruption, it had been a fantastic night, and everyone went home well satisfied with their evening.



Catherine managed to get in some dancing too - *"The Kissing Bridge"*

Lots of thanks are due, of course:

- To Catherine for the great programme and expert briefing. For keeping cool when the fire brigade ordered us to evacuate, and for her videos which she posted on Facebook (but which I can't seem to be able to share on the Tawa FB page – aargh! the mysteries of Facebook ... )
- To the band for their fabulous music. The introduction of Johnny Bourne playing bass made for an interesting sound
- To the ten volunteers for turning up to set up the hall in the afternoon. The job was done in just 25 minutes!



- To Colin for the greenery to decorate the front of the stage, and John for the fairy lights
- To Margaret for the loan of the Scottish tea towels to decorate the walls
- To Robert and Caroline for 'manning' the door (and keeping the money safe during the evacuation!)
- To Fiona for ringing the fire brigade
- To Jo L, Caroline, Patricia and several others for their hard work in the kitchen, organising supper and washing up afterwards
- To Jo for making the fruit salad and Fiona for making the jellies
- To all the members for bringing along their supper contributions, and for helping to tidy up afterwards.
- To John, Joy and Patricia for contributing their photos, a few more of which are shown below (Note: photos are by John, unless stated otherwise).



An abundant and sumptuous supper looks ready to be served! (Photo by Patricia)



The circulating Allemande in "The Flower of Glasgow"





Laura, Jo L and Patricia



*"Down the middle and up" - Maureen and Cameron (Photo by Joy)*



The Fire Brigade arrives (Photo by Joy)