

LOCAL BULLETIN

MUSIC

Ruthven Festival performers
combat venue's chilly extremes

The only problem that faces a two-day music festival is maintaining the high standard of performance set on day one, writes music critic Garry Fraser.

With Friday's opening Ruthven Festival concert tipping the scales of excellence, Sunday's performers had their work cut out. But they emulated this in excellent fashion, combatting the chilly extremes of the Ruthven Community Hall.

The choice of music was a key factor, with composers from a variety of genres – Handel, Parry, Shostakovich and Haydn – mixing well. And as the music was in the hands of the experienced Ruthven Musicians, there was much to look forward to.

However, it was to an inexperienced young player that the main attention was drawn.

Lorna Doyle might be only 15 but she shows the capability and unflappable qualities of a cellist

of more maturity. Beautiful tone shone through, particularly in a lovely Adagio by Bargiel.

Youthful bravado and exuberance was clear in the opening movement of a Shostakovich sonata, and I personally care not a jot about slightly mis-timed jumps from first to thumb position. To attempt such a work smacks not only of talent but confidence and technique.

It was left to the small orchestra to take care of the remaining programme, under Alan Young's watchful baton.

Alan's interpretation of Vivace is slightly faster than mine and thus the opening movement of the Haydn symphony whizzed past.

However, with competence of the players in his charge, the music didn't suffer throughout and indeed had a warming effect on a dreich, damp Ruthven afternoon.

FORFAR

Ron Lawson's work to take
centre stage at art gallery

World-renowned artist Ron Lawson will be at the Canvas Art Gallery in Forfar on Saturday between 5.30pm and 8pm.

Ron will be at the East High Street venue showcasing a collection of his latest original work along with seven new limited edition prints released only last week.

Also on display will be three special prints limited to 25 copies each.

Ron's art captures the Highlands and Islands and is inspired by his exploring of these areas by bicycle, armed with a sketchbook and camera.

He worked for 35 years in the art department at DC Thomson before leaving to embark on a full-time career.

IN BRIEF

Local events across Angus area

ARBROATH: Arbroath dog lovers are in for a treat on Saturday when they can enter their pooch at a special dog show at St Vigeans Fete.

The eight show categories include cutest puppy, waggiest tail, most appealing eyes and best veteran.

The fete is organised by St Vigeans Church and will be held in the Glebe surrounding the church between 1pm and 4pm.

The event will feature a bouncy castle, beat the goalie, hook the duck, face-painting and a duck race down the Brothock Burn.

FORFAR. Strathmore Cricket Club is holding a beach-themed barbecue on June 25, from 7pm to late.

Adult tickets are £10

including a raffle ticket, and £5 for children.

The event will raise money for the Lochside Park club and Macmillan.

CARNOUSTIE: Carnoustie Probud Club vice-president Robbie Murray introduced guest speaker Brian McCartney, who spoke about many of the major events he has covered during a 40-year career as a reporter with several daily and Sunday newspapers.

In particular he recalled the first 12 hours following the Lockerbie crash.

Peter Murphy proposed thanks.

At the club's next meeting on Wednesday, June 22, Jim Bett's talk will be entitled 'Chasing dragons and catching tigers'.

Dragon spectacular
returning to Monikie

Jamie Cruickshank enjoyed last year's event. Picture: Kris Miller.

DRAGONQUEST:
Amazing light show
will bring country
park's woods to life
later this year

RICHARD WATT

Trolls, fairies and a dragon will return to an Angus spectacular this autumn.

Last year the denizens of Monikie Country Park came out to entertain more than 5,000 visitors at the first DragonQuest.

And tickets are now on sale for the follow-up augmented reality (AR) light show, entitled Dragon Matrix.

Visitors will embark on a quest to track six dragon stones, stolen from the Museum of Dragons in Monikie's dark woods from October 5 to 31.

Edinburgh company Vision Mechanics return to bring the woods to life with AR installations, music, and giant figures.

Artistic director Symon Macintyre said: "Again, the show will incorporate cutting-edge AR technologies alongside more traditional, theatrical treats.

"Last year, through a mobile app, visitors could capture and reveal a collection of amazing creatures.

"This year, there are many more and they talk, so visitors are once again urged to bring their smart phones and tablets.

"By downloading the Dragon Matrix app in advance, they can chance their



**We are
delighted
the dragons
will be
coming to
visit us again
and look
forward to
welcoming
them back to
Monikie.**

**KIRSTY HUNTER
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
ANGUSALIVE**

luck on the Path of Spiders, see flying fairies, sneaky spiders and terrible trolls."

The event is supported by EventScotland, part of VisitScotland, Angus Council, and The Space, which works with artists and arts organisations to reach new audiences using digital means.

VisitScotland's director of events Paul Bush said: "The augmented reality show will once again capture the imaginations of visitors with its spectacular display of light, sound and visuals this autumn.

"Through the stunning setting of the Monikie Country Park and the creative talents of the organisers at Vision Mechanics, Dragon Matrix shows why Scotland truly is the perfect stage for events."

The chief executive of ANGUSALIVE, Kirsty Hunter, said: "Last year's event was a tremendous success with those who enjoyed the thrill of the dark wood extravaganza giving the experience fantastic reviews.

"Monikie Country Park provided the perfect setting, with location and event complimenting one another brilliantly.

"We are delighted the dragons will be coming to visit us again and look forward to welcoming them back to Monikie."

Fiona Morris, of The Space, said: "Our investment will help the event increase its reach and engagement digitally, ensuring even more people are able to enjoy and explore this exciting experience."

Tickets are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/angusalive or the www.webstertheatre.co.uk.

Visit the event website, Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram for more details.
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