

Brian McNeill

[Brian's Website](#)

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Hello everyone, here's the latest!



Welcome to a very brief update. The picture on the left, of me wielding my much-loved Josh House doubleneck, is from the immensely enjoyable [Feast of Fiddles](#) set at [New Forest Folk Festival](#) a few weeks ago. A real live gig! People in silly hats dancing like dervishes in front of the stage! With their dogs! Rain! Sun! Cider! It couldn't have been better - even if we did have to go through an unexpected English Folk Festival ritual of getting our van towed out of the mud at the end of the night - thank you, guys!

My thanks to Nick Curtis and his great crew for a brilliant first foray back into live performance, long may it continue. I'm sure I could hear my instruments singing in their cases all the way home...



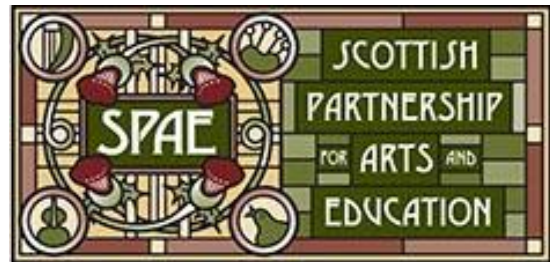
The other news is that [...In A China Shop](#), the second Sammy Knox mystery, is now for sale on Amazon in both paperback and eBook formats. Signed paperbacks from our own website may take a bit longer to organise, but we'll let you know as soon direct sales are possible. Meanwhile, thanks for your patience.



More performing news. [Goderich Celtic Roots Festival](#) in Ontario has asked me to do an online workshop for them on this coming Thursday, August 5th, and they've kindly agreed to make it open to anyone who receives this newsletter. I'll be singing and playing, as well as talking about history and

songs and songwriting, and there'll be plenty of time for questions. Given that this is my first time doing a live internet presentation, I do confess to wondering how I'll adapt to performing to a computer screen, even if I know (or at least hope!) that there are real human beings on the other end. If you do take part, let me know how I got on. It's not a free event, but if you're interested, please go to this link: <https://www.celticfestival.ca/virtual-workshops> It'll give you time and price and any other details you need.

My next swathe of work is also going to be online, and I'm preparing that now. Given the continuing difficulties regarding travel to the USA, I'll be spending this October doing a series of lessons, mainly on Scottish fiddle, for [SPAЕ](#), the Scottish Partnership For Arts And Education. I really take my hat off to this St. Louis-based organisation, so ably led by Diane McCullough - no difficulty, no matter how seemingly insurmountable, ever beats them! They always reach their admirable goal of keeping Scottish music and culture alive in their city.



I'll finish with another photograph, of me and my Feast Of Fiddles colleague and great friend Hugh Crabtree as he joins me in my solo set to lend his fine harmonies to my song *Bring The Lassie Hame*.



So, thanks to Jacqueline France and Neil King of [Fatea](#) magazine for the fine images, and as always, I'll remind you that this letter is never sent out without permission. Anyone who gets it has been personally invited to join the list. If you no longer wish to be included, please tell me and I'll remove you. And if

you know anyone who might like to be added, please ask them to email me at the above address.

I hope you're getting some summer. Stay safe and healthy - and, as always, I'd really enjoy hearing from you.

All the best,

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