



Stars come out for Alan

Nov 20 2005

By Coreena Ford, Sunday Sun

Hundreds of music fans gathered last night for a special concert to celebrate the life of Lindisfarne founder Alan Hull.



Alan was 50 when he died of a heart attack in 1995, after steering the much-loved North band through 33 years of tours and top-selling hits, including Fog on the Tyne and Lady Eleanor.

Last night his former colleagues and friends raised the roof as they performed his songs at Newcastle City Hall in a sell-out show marking the 10th anniversary of his death.

Fans had travelled from all over the country for the line-up, which included Ray Laidlaw, Billy Mitchell, Mike Elliot, Steve Cunningham, Brendan Healy, Tim Healy, Jimmy Nail, Ian McCallum and Kathryn Tickell.

Former Lindisfarne frontman and harmonica player Ray Jackson, who is now an artist in Oxfordshire, also took to the stage, together with fellow original band member Simon Cowe, who left to start up a brewery in Canada.

Before taking to the stage, some of the performers paid tribute to Alan, declaring him to be one of the region's greatest songwriters.

Ex-Lindisfarne member Brendan Healy said before the concert: "It's going to be a tremendous night.

"Apart from anything else, Alan was one of the most talented lyricists in the country and some of his songs were stunningly beautiful.

"He was just a great talent . . . and he was a master of not spilling vodka. I've seen him hit a monitor and fall down many a time but he never spilled a drop!"

The concert, which sold out more than two months ago, was organised by Alan's friend Ray Laidlaw, who was drummer and founder member of Lindisfarne.

He said the concert was not going to be a reunion for the band, but said that the night promised to be very special.

Ray added: "We're giving Alan the credit he deserves - a nod of approval, if you like - and also celebrating his talent and skills."

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