

Press release from

Save Gillies Hill

BIG WIDSTOK: BIG SUCCESS: BIG WIDS OK?

The Big Wids (for non-Scots: ‘the large/high trees’) on the Gillies Hill must have felt that bit more secure on Saturday as they gazed down to Cambusbarron’s Public Park on the latest effort to preserve the historic hill. The *Save Gillies Hill* campaigners’ mini-music festival, *The Big Widstok* was a stunning success, raising both a considerable sum for the cause, and yet another increase in public consciousness of the threat to a beautiful and environmentally-precious landscape.

After a brief but pointed welcome from local Councillor Scott Farmer – he reminded the 700 plus audience of why they were all there, and pledged continued support at Council level for the campaign – Stuart Marshall piped the afternoon to a resonant start.

Thereafter, the aptly-named *Gillies Hillbillies* enhanced their growing reputation with their versions of Dylan, the Byrds, Jackson Brown and Johnnie Cash; George Gershwin too and others. If the park was really swinging by the hand-over to Ted Christopher, it was almost over the bar with Ted’s stirring contributions: *Caledonia* and *Killiecrankie*, especially, got feet tapping and hands clapping. Very honourable mentions should also go to those who performed at the ‘open mike’ session: Falkirk’s Callum Campbell and friend, and an unscheduled appearance of Konrad delighted the crowd.

The SGH group wants to thank all who attended, and who helped raise a considerable sum in donations; all its tireless volunteers, and those others who volunteered in different ways: Liz in the Community Centre, the always generous and helpful Michael More and his staff. Most of all, they want to thank the artistes: Davy McFarlane, John Garnham, Frank McCulloch and Malky McInnes of the *Hillbillies*, and, of course, Ted Christopher (and roadie) who also generously provided the excellent sound system. Both headline acts also, of course, gave their quite outstanding services free of charge.