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**Perth All Scotland
Accordion & Fiddle Festival**

PRESS RELEASE

All Scotland Accordion & Fiddle Festival to continue in Perth.

Following doubt over its future, it has been confirmed that the 61st Perth All Scotland Accordion & Fiddle Festival will go ahead on the 30th October 2010.

Fears over the continuation of this prestigious event were raised amidst rumours that Bill Wilkie, founder and organiser of the festival since 1950, was planning to step down. However, we are delighted to confirm that Bill has been liaising with local musicians and enthusiasts to secure the long term future of the event in Perth and a committee has been formed to whom he will hand over the running of the festival this year.

The festival is a major occasion in the national music calendar incorporating the official Scottish Accordion Championships for traditional music alongside fiddle competitions and a range of individual and group classes covering a variety of musical styles. In past years the festival has seen hundreds of participants converge on the city from all over the UK.

This year's festival will centre around the Salutation Hotel and nearby halls, commencing with a Welcome Ceilidh on the evening of Friday 29th October. A full day of competitions following a similar format to previous years will take place on Saturday 30th. Performances by renowned top class professional musicians and informal sessions will also take place throughout the day. Previous Scottish champion accordionist Peter Bruce, chairman of the organising committee, was quick to stress that whilst the new format Festival will miss the gravitas of the Concert Hall venue it will more than make up for this by incorporating entertainment events which will ensure the attendees enjoy the musical extravaganza in every other way. The festival will conclude with a celebration dance on the Saturday evening hosted by Perth & District Accordion and Fiddle Club. All events will be open to the general public.

Bill Wilkie will continue to run his highly popular celebrity variety concerts at various points throughout the year but there will not be a concert to coincide with the festival this year.

Further details and competition registration arrangements will be announced in due course. Call 01738 5551485 with any queries or visit www.perthaccordionfestival.co.uk

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Notes

- **Bill Wilkie**, Perth's Mr Music, was awarded the MBE in 1994 for services to the All Scotland Accordion and Fiddle Festival. A professional musician all his life, he worked with Ralph Reader during the Second World War. He later formed his own band in Perth and started his own thriving music business. Last year Bill was presented with a quaich by the Provost of Perth to acknowledge his outstanding contribution to music in Perth for more than 60 years.