



HARBOROUGH JAZZ

NEWSLETTER No 14

February 2012

The Season So Far:

By the time you read this, our 2011-2012 season will be half-way over, but it has been a cracker so far. Musically we've had some great sessions, and financially we've just about held our own. Birmingham's Ray Butcher kicked us off with a great gig, to be followed by one of the stand out events – Greg Abate with the Nick Hislam Trio playing to a full house. Dominic Ashworth and the late Michael Garrick provided some beautiful music – those present will long remember Mike's re-modelling of the old favourite Limehouse Blues as well as some of his own tunes, whilst Dominic's guitar work was outstanding. December brought Carol Grimes – some really good jazz singing, including using the voice as an instrument, with backing vocals from Annie Whitehead and Winston Clifford. When not singing, Annie played some beautiful trombone and Winston (last seen at JOASD with Tony Coe) reminded us what a tasteful drummer he is. Dorian Gray also played some great piano. January will have seen the return of Scott Hamilton and his Quartet kicking off their tour of the Midlands at Market Harborough: a gig the editor missed whilst sitting at home with a broken leg!

Still To Come:

February sees our usual jazz jam featuring a wide range of local musicians. March will bring the welcome return of Art Themen, whose tenor playing with Andra Sparks last year persuaded us to book him immediately. His quartet will feature John Critchinson (keyboards), last heard with the Vic Ash/Simon Spillett Quintet at our last JOASD. April sees local band Neil Segrott Quartet, whilst May brings guitar star Nigel Price and his guitar/organ trio, followed in June by the return of Dorian Gray, (keyboards) and his trio.

2012-2013 Season:

The Committee has been busily considering possible artists for the 2012-2013. Amongst those already booked are Trudy Kerr (vocals), returning after her sellout performance a couple of years ago; Steve Fishwick (trumpet) and Colin Oxley (guitar), both of whom have appeared under a different guise before, and a visiting US musician from New England, Benny Shapiro. We also hope to book Alan Barnes, Jim Hart, Bobbie Wellins, Annie Whitehead and Adam Glasser amongst others, together with the best of the regional talent available.

Finances:

To date our finances remain healthy, with the club roughly breaking even over the gigs to date. But we always welcome new members and guests, so please bring friends and neighbours along to the sessions. We would particularly welcome some younger visitors – there must be some young fans out there who should give us a try. Through them we might access some of the younger musicians who are beginning to make a name for themselves and whose music will allow those of more mature years to 'freshen up our ears.' Membership also quickly repays itself over the season....but if you do not intend to renew your membership it would be very helpful if you would let Rob know on 01858 466737.

Future Gigs:

We are always on the look out for new talent. If you see or hear someone you think would be particularly interesting to hear at Harborough Jazz, please let us know at one of the gigs or give us a call. And whilst we are about it, please do support some of the other venues in the area – there are jazz gigs to be heard not only in Leicester at The Y and Embrace Arts (formerly the Richard Attenborough Centre), but also in Wellingborough at the Castle and in Peterborough. Many local pubs hold a weekly or monthly jazz session featuring local musicians – we, and they, all need your support. Without it, not only do the clubs and venues fade away, but the music becomes more difficult to sustain....

Listening To Jazz:

For those of you who still listen to vinyl or CDs, here are some 2011 sounds you might want to catch up on; the sadly missed Humph live with Buck Clayton at the Slipper Club in Nottingham on Lake Records; The Impossible Gentlemen (Gwylim Simcock; Mike Walker, Steve Swallow and Adam Nussbaum) on Basho Records; most of the Avid reissues with three or four vinyl lp's on one cd; Lee Konitz et al Live At The Vanguard on ECM; as well as box sets on Joe Harriott on Proper, and the Black Saint/Soulnote boxes on people like Lee Konitz; Steve Lacy, George Russell and Charlie Haden.

Cheques for Advance Bookings:

Please remember that a separate cheque is required for each gig that you book in advance, and dated to the first of the month in which the gig takes place. This may seem cumbersome to you, but it makes the Treasurers job (an unpaid volunteer, as all of us are) a lot easier. We explained the reasons for this in Newsletter No 12, February 2011

Contacting Rob in Future:

Rob is currently attempting to build a new house next door to his existing home at 32 The Heights Market Harborough. As part of the process he is selling the existing home and intends to move into a caravan on the site. By the end of March, if all goes to plan (ho ho) he will be ensconced in the caravan. Mail addressed to 32 The Heights should still reach him. However, there is no guarantee that he will be able to transfer his existing telephone number that he has had for over 25 years. He may even lose his email. Please continue to use the existing number until you do not get a reply. Thereafter he may be contactable on mobile 07970-262190 but please only use this number if it is really necessary.

Sponsors:

We do not receive any funding from national arts funding bodies, so remain extremely grateful to our local sponsors – The Angel Hotel; Quinns Bookshop and Duncan Murray Wines.



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