



HARBOROUGH JAZZ

- 8th Year!

NEWSLETTER 16 – February 2013

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Visit www.harboroughjazz.com and see our videos, photos, programme and artiste details

THE SEASON SO FAR....

Welcome to yet another Newsletter. By now, if you have already missed such highlights as Benny Sharoni, Jim Hart, Trudy Kerr and Alan Barnes, maybe you will make it to Adam Glasser. The first part of the season has been a musical success, with each gig having some really good highspots. Casey Green's group opened the season with a small but appreciative audience; local musicians at their best. Benny Sharoni enjoyed his visit and was warmly appreciative of the piano playing of local musician Neil Hunter and the bass playing of Bill Coleman, who was on really good form, whilst Nick Hislam kept good time at the drums. Jim Hart's vibes playing demonstrated why he was the only Brit to be nominated for a *Downbeat* Award, and piano player Ivo Neame's keyboard work showed why he is so highly regarded amongst the jazz fraternity. Particularly rewarding for the editor was the group's version of his request – Hamp's Midnight Sun, on which Ivo Neame turned in an outstanding solo. With young musicians like these, Britain's jazz is in healthy hands – and there are so many young musicians out there that deserve to be heard. Trudy Kerr's December gig only served to remind us that she is one of our best female singers, whilst husband Geoff Gascoyne is another excellent bass player. Pianist Tom Cawley was another young musician whose solos were well received by the audience. Alan Barnes was simply Alan Barnes...a great jazz musician who can keep his audience in the palm of his hand!

Sad to say if all these gigs were a musical success, financially they have proved very difficult, with the club losing a considerable sum over the first half of the season. Whilst our funds are sufficient to see us through the season, some belt tightening is in prospect, as well as wider and better attempts to increase our audience size. The gig survey undertaken at the December session revealed that most of our audience is made up of members and guests, which is what we would expect – but that the Trudy Kerr audience comprised a large proportion who had attended only one previous session or were coming for the first time this season was somewhat surprising. Our membership has been remarkably faithful and steady over the years, and the survey suggests that they are highly appreciative of our efforts to provide a high quality programme. **BUT** we would like to see a few more of you at each gig, together with friends and relatives, as well as extra non-members who are always welcome. In particular we would like to see some younger people coming into the club, if only because the committee gets a year older each season.

OUR FUNDING...

At this point it is probably worth reminding you that we are a self-financing and not-for-profit group. We receive no grants or any other external financial support whatsoever. Our sponsorship is in kind. We are totally dependant on the membership scheme, admission fees and the raffles for our funding. That is why it is so very important to us that we get more members joining and more of you and your friends at the gigs.

FORTHCOMING GIGS...

February sees the welcome return of harmonica player Adam Glasser and his quartet. South African born Adam played Harborough Jazz a couple of years ago and was warmly received. He brings with him two other Harborough favourites, Robin Aspland on piano and Tristram Maillot on drums. Robin has played at the club on several occasions, notably with Martin Drew's Jazz Couriers some years ago, whilst Tristram Maillot, who has also played Harborough on several occasions, was recently at the club with Jim Hart. They are joined by bassist Steve Watts.

Date for the diary: **10th February**. Admission: Members & Guests **£10**, Non-Members **£12**.

March sees a visit by two musicians who have played Harborough before, but this time come together with their own quartet. The Steve Fishwick/Colin Oxley 4 promise an interesting session mixing Fishwick's trumpet with Oxley's guitar playing. They will be supported by Tom Farmer on bass and Matt Fishwick on drums. A gig not to be missed!

Date for the diary: **10th March**. Admission: Members & Guests **£12**, Non-Members **£14**.

April sees Dr Len organise his Jazz Jam – a popular event especially for local musicians. Expect the usual suspects to play – Len himself on guitar; along with committee members Larry Goodyer on guitar, along with Mike O'Brien on trumpet. They will no doubt be joined by Ken Erwee on keyboards and many other local musicians.

Date for the diary: **14th April**. Admission: Members & Guests **£6**, Non-Members **£8**.

May is another highlight session with the Chris Garrick/John Etheridge Duo. This pair has been entertaining jazz fans with their mix of violin and guitar music over the years. We can expect everything from Django style sounds to more modern music. Son of the late Michael Garrick, Chris has been on the scene since early childhood. John Etheridge's career spans Stephane Grappelli to Soft Machine – from old style French swing to one of our more outstanding modern jazz groups. This promises to be a corker of a gig...

Date for the diary: **12th May**. Admission: Members & Guests **£12**, Non-members **£14**.

June sees the closing of our season with the appearance of the Graham Dent Band, a popular local group who have appeared at Harborough Jazz previously. Again this group is a modern mainstream band in accordance with the club's musical policy.

Date for the diary: **9th June**. Admission: Members & Guests **£7**, Non-Members **£9**.

NEXT SEASON...

The committee are beginning to consider possible artists for next season. Already marked for a return is the popular American alto/flute player Greg Abate, who has just made a record with another well-known alto player, the legendary Phil Woods. We are exploring the possibility of bringing in another US star, the great cornettist Warren Vache – very much the heir to the late Ruby Braff: more details in our next Newsletter. We are casting our net wide in the search for the best of local bands; looking out for the rising stars of British jazz, and seeking to bring to Harborough some of the well-established stars on the British jazz scene. If you have any suggestions – other than those made in response to the gig survey – please let us know by contacting one of the committee members – the phone numbers are at the top of this Newsletter.

SPONSORS

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