



# HARBOROUGH JAZZ - 9<sup>th</sup> YEAR!

## Newsletter No 18 – February 2014

### CONTACT US

Rob 01858-466737 Len 01858-446067 Jean 01858-433953 Larry 01858-466622  
Mike-G 01536-770122 Stewart 01858-466956 Mike-O'B 01858-465971

Visit [www.harboroughjazz.com](http://www.harboroughjazz.com) and see our videos, photos, programme and artiste details.

### The Season So Far....

Welcome to our February Newsletter. We've had some wonderful sessions at the club this year, and if you are one of those who were turned away at the door at either the Andra Sparks or the Great Wee Band gigs we can only apologise. We are limited by that great saint, Elfin Safe Tea, to 70 seats, so we would remind you that you can book in advance for our gigs and that such action is particularly advisable for those sessions which have popular attractions. Not that such sell outs are that frequent. We had particularly poor attendances for our first three events, despite the excellence of the musicians involved. Local band Andy Nicholls 5 kicked off the season in fine form, albeit with a small audience. In October, Steve Waterman played some great trumpet, whilst Anthony Kerr showed great taste with his vibes playing. This front line was well supported by Andy Cleyndert on bass and Dave Barry on drums. Greg Abate gave a master class in alto playing in November, and Nick Hislam's trio provided excellent support, Neil Hunter on piano outstanding and Bill Coleman on bass as tasteful as ever, whilst Nick both provided good time and excellent solos on drums. Andra Sparks sold out the house, and her singing was better than ever as she presented a programme of standards and originals either arranged or composed by partner Nick Weldon. Nick provided some interesting lyrics for Andra – who would think you could bring a word like bulimia into a song! Nick's bass playing was pretty sharp as well. We were also treated to some wonderful sounds from Art Themen on tenor and Nikki Iles on keyboards (pity we can't afford a piano), whilst Laura Jurd on trumpet more than justified her growing reputation as a new star. Trevor Tompkins' drum work showed why he remains a top flight drummer – and his Bing Crosby story amused the audience.

Jim Mullen, Henry Lowther, Dave Green and Stu Butterfield – 'the Great Wee Band' – played some excellent mainstream music. Henry's trumpet work was beautiful, treating us to everything from Handel to Fungi Mama. Jim reminded us of what a great guitar player he is, having some of the audience almost in fits as he threw in quote after quote on some tunes. Dave Green showed why he simply is one of Britain's best bass players, whilst Stu Butterfield not only kept excellent time but also played some great, if short, solos full of drive and humour.

The poor attendance at the early sessions meant that the club suffered significant heavy losses. Luckily our two full houses in December and January have gone a considerable way to offset them, but we still need to see five or ten more people through the door at each session to remain financially healthy. We are particularly grateful to our Members, new and old, since the income flow from Membership provides an important line of support for the club. Other clubs in the East Midlands have also reported significant downturns in numbers at gigs up to the turn of the year. Jazz and the musicians who provide us with such excellent music depends on the support of us all – if the average musician makes around £20k a year, then many jazz musicians will be making considerably less. So please help us to keep the music live by coming to as many sessions as possible – bring your friends, children and grandchildren – we need some younger members to provide new blood to the club. With bands such as Art Themen / Don Weller and the Clark Tracey Quintet to come, alongside Adrian Litvinoff's Interplay as well as the now famous Dr Len's Jazz Jam, the rest of our 2013/14 Season promises to provide some excellent jazz.

### Next Season:

The committee are beginning to consider possible artists for next season, which will see the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club. Already marked for a return is the popular American Benny Sharoni, who played a storming session a couple of years ago supported by Nick Hislam's trio. Trombonist Annie Whitehead will be with us in October, having had to cancel a gig we had booked this season, whilst Alan Barnes will also make a return visit. We hope tenor star Stan Sulzman will be with us, either with the group Neon, featuring Jim Hart on vibes and Kit Downes on keyboards, or with his own quartet. Vibes player Roger Beaujolais is another man we have lined up. We continue to cast our net wide in the search for the best of local bands; looking out for the best of the rising stars of British jazz, and seeking to bring to Harborough Jazz some more of the well-established and well loved musicians on the British jazz scene. If you have any suggestions – please let us know by contacting one of the committee members – phone numbers at the top of the Newsletter.

### Membership

Our thanks to all those of you have either renewed your Membership or have joined the club this season. If your Membership is due for renewal, why not take the opportunity to contact Rob de Borde Barker (01858-466737) and renew now. Membership not only offers Members a discounted admission price for them and an accompanied Guest, but is one of the things which sets Harborough Jazz aside from some other clubs. Not all clubs or venues have a membership system offering benefits. Furthermore, our subscription income is one of the factors which has allowed the club to survive over the last couple of years and to maintain a high quality programme – so being a member makes financial sense, not only to you, but to the club as well.

### Change to Programme

The April gig will not be the Annie Whitehead band. She has another gig the night before in a far flung place and because of travel problems cannot guarantee to be with us the next day. We have therefore booked Adrian Litvinoff's Interplay for April.

### An Apology

Rob has been having problems with his computer system. His printer has now been diagnosed as beyond repair. If he buys a new one, his existing operating system will not drive it. If he upgrades to a new operating system, his computer will not accommodate it! He has now found a workaround, but this means that for the past month, from end January to the beginning of March, he has been unable to deal with Membership Applications or Renewals. This means that new Members have not received their pack of information and existing Members have not had their renewals requested or processed. He says sorry and hopes that "normal service will be resumed as soon as possible". (Remember that from the early days of tv and transmission breakdowns?)

### STOP PRESS!!!!

The gig in February with the Josh Kemp Quartet was a full house. It looks as if the March gig with Art Themen & Don Weller will also be a full house. Please remember to book early, you may not get in if you just turn up on the day.

### Sponsors

We are delighted to have found a new sponsor in the *2th Independent Dental Practice*. Together with *The Angel Hotel* and *Duncan Murray's Wines*, the *2th* will continue to sponsor us for the rest of the 2013 and 2014 Season.

For the rest of Season 2013-14 Harborough Jazz will be sponsored by:



*2th Dental Practice*



*Duncan Murray Wines*



*The Angel Hotel*

We are grateful to our sponsors for their support, and we ask you to support them.