



HARBOROUGH JAZZ

NEWSLETTER No 2

April 2006

Membership

By the end of the year 2005 we had reached our first target of 50 people signed up for Membership of Harbourough Jazz. However, as anticipated, the rate of growth has recently slowed down and at the time of writing this Newsletter the Membership stands at 57.

Our next target is to have a Membership of 80 by the end of this season, which is going to be difficult to achieve with only three gigs (including the Alan Barnes gig) left in which to recruit. It will help us to achieve this if you can also tell others about Harbourough Jazz and bring them along as your guest. Hopefully they will enjoy the music so much that they will also want to be Members.

Audience At Gigs

We have now staged seven gigs since Harbourough Jazz reopened in September 2005. The audience figures have been as shown in the table below.

Date	Band	Audience Numbers		
		M&G	N	Total
25 th September	Dr Lens Jazz Jam	21	20	41
9 th October	The Mike Branney Trio with Mellow Harmony	34	5	39
13 th November	The Andra Sparks Quartet with Nick Weldon	35	36	71
11 th December	Mulligan Stew	23	20	43
8 th January	Dr Len's New Year Jazz Jam	33	32	65
12 th February	Julie Edwards & Kevin Dearden	21	29	50
12 th March	The Mike Sole & Pete Harratt Quartet	32	12	44

Note: M&G = Members and Members Guests; N = Non-members

The average audience is 50.

However, it can be seen that the attendance for the Andra Sparks gig was much higher. This was because Andra brought many of her fans with her. The attendance at this gig has raised the overall average by three.

As can be seen from the attendance figures, we are still very dependent on the presence of Non-members to get a good audience.

Restriction Of Audience Numbers

As a result of overcrowding at Dr Lens New Year Jazz Jam, where we also had 14 musicians attending, the Harbourough Theatre management looked more closely at its licence for the lounge/bar area and we are now restricted to a maximum audience of 60. This obviously has implications for us, not least of which is that the loss of ten admission fees reduces the maximum potential revenue for each concert.

Additional Membership Benefits

In view of the restriction on audience numbers we have become concerned that Members arriving near to the start time of a gig, or later, may find themselves unable to buy a ticket because we are already at capacity. To mitigate this possibility we have decided to introduce additional benefits for Members.

Firstly, we will now only sell tickets to Non-members after 12.15pm on the day of the gig. Members will still be able to buy tickets from 12.00 noon onwards but now get the first opportunity between 12.00 noon and 12.15pm.

Secondly, we are implementing an advance ticket purchase scheme by post for Members. Enclosed with this Newsletter is a sheet of Advance Ticket Purchase vouchers. All that you have to do is to return a voucher with your payment as directed on the form. To find out what the price of a ticket is going to be, phone up one of us and ask. The contact telephone numbers are as follows:

Len Holden	01858-446067
Andrew Sime	01455-844075
Jean Smith	01858-433953
Rob de Borde Barker	01858-466737

Revised Programme

Gig 14th May

This will be the Ian Hill Quartet; not Mellow Harmony as previously advised

The Andy Nicholls Gig – 11th June

We have been unable to book Andy Nicholls.

As an alternative for this date we have booked an artiste for whom we have had many requests for a second appearance - Mellow Harmony.

Next Season

Yes, we are already looking ahead to Season 2006-07 and the draft programme is very exciting. We are hoping to book international, national and up-and-coming local jazz artistes. This will of course be subject to us being able to agree terms with the various artistes.

And The Season After

Somebody has already suggested a Market Harborough (International) Jazz Festival.....

Membership Subscriptions

We are grateful for the support of Members, for without this Harborough Jazz could not exist. The membership subscriptions are allowing us to be more adventurous in our bookings policy, and the effects of this will be more apparent next season.

Membership Renewals

Membership renewals will commence at the end of September 2006 onwards and we hope that the majority, if not all of you, will choose to renew. We cannot say this too often; without the Membership subscriptions Harborough Jazz cannot exist. Please help us to keep modern jazz live in Market Harborough.

Sponsors

Harborough jazz is currently sponsored by:



Harborough District Council



Duncan Murray Wines

We have received a substantial grant from HDC for Season 2005/2006. Duncan Murray, a Member of Harborough Jazz, provides us with the bottles of wine for our raffle.

We are continually grateful to our sponsors for their support, as their contributions are also significant in keeping Harborough Jazz alive.
(Apologies to our sponsors for not mentioning them in Newsletter No 1: Sorry!)