

The Foot Tappers News

Apr – May – June 2018



Emily and her Gang



5th June 2018

Editorial

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March 2018

This issue is tinged with sadness with the death of 3 of our musical friends.

**Mike Harries
1932 – 2018**

The Cardiff Jazz World was shocked when the death of Mike Harries was announced on 15th Jan 2018, after a musical career spanning 70 years.

Mike was a very Charismatic person, his enthusiasm for his jazz music flowing from every sinew. He had started with a New Orleans Band in the Philharmonic in the late 1940's, and had several line-ups in that format for the following 20 years or so. In the mid 1960's, he promoted the visits of several New Orleans Greats, including the Legendary Clarinettist George Lewis, Emanuel Paul and Kid Thomas, to name but a few. He also formed the Mike Harries Marching Band which became 'The Adamant Marching Band' in the early 60's. In 1987, he formed the Root Doctors. During the 1960's, virtually every Cardiff musician would have been associated with Mike in one way or another whether, it be in the Adamant or one of his line-ups, we owe him a great debt of gratitude for their introduction into his style of jazz.

There was a tribute concert, organised by the Root Doctors, at the Coal Exchange in February, which featured many of the artists, that had appeared with Mike over the last 40 years, as well as his New Orleans Band which was fronted by John Hummerstone and John Scantlebury who were members in the 1970's.



The PJS will be organising our own tribute, which will feature the early musical career of Mike. This will be held at Café Jazz, on 2nd October 2018.

We offer our condolences to Mike's wife Moya and family for their sad loss.

Alun Jones

Mike Kennedy, John Hummerstone, John Scantlebury, Lynn Saunders and Mike Pearce,

Visit the PJS Website :- www.pjscardiff.co.uk

Chris Grear

1931 - 2018

We first met Chris at the Wentloog Hotel, Castleton, where the Riverside Band played. Together with his colleagues Don White and Doug Smith, Chris would sit in the front row – a kind of “judge and Jury” – listening to the band. Then, at the end of the session, he would help the band pack away their gear, which was always appreciated. As well as the Riverside, his favourite bands were the Acme Band, at the Engineers Arms, in Newport, together with the bands that were led by John Minnion and, of course, Norman Thatcher.

With those bands appearing at Café Jazz from time to time, Chris soon became a member of the Preservation Jazz Society, where he would attend virtually every session. If Chris wasn't there it would be a case of almost asking him for a “sick note” to explain his absence!



His love of traditional jazz was not limited just to South Wales. Chris frequently attended festivals at Bude and Upton-on-Severn – and at Brecon (as he put it - when Brecon used to be a ‘proper’ jazz festival). Another of his favourite venues was the Wessex Hotel in Street, Somerset, where he and Annie attended many of the jazz weekends put on by John Minnion. He would know all the musicians and be treated as one of their friends.

Steve Davis, Chris and Alan? at the Engineers
Photo Bourke le Carpentier 7/1/2002, The Acme Bands last night

Back home, he must have been delighted when the Society Band began playing in Whitchurch, firstly at the Maltsters and later at The Oak. For Chris, it was jazz on his door step, no car to drive - what better could you want? That must have been heaven for him.

Chris wasn't able to go to Café Jazz for the last year or so because of increasing health problems. He will be sadly missed by the Preservation Jazz Society, the musicians who play there, and all his jazz friends. We offer our condolences to Lesley and family.

Pete Locke / Alun Jones

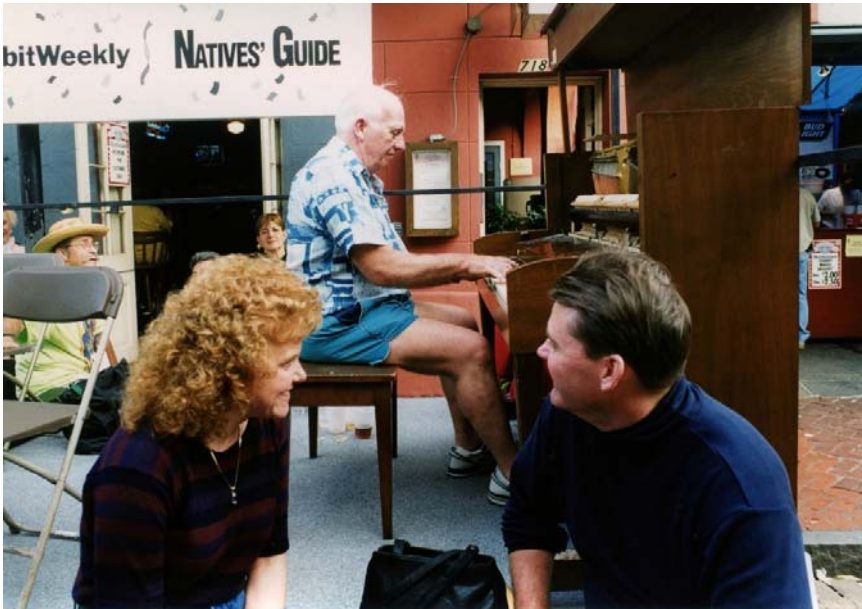
Captain Richard Neil Jordan 1931-2018

Neil was a talented pianist along with his two sisters from a young age, and had a life long passion for music, especially Jazz in all its forms. He played his grand piano every day at home and never lost his touch, and liked nothing more than to play the piano and entertain people, until the early hours of the morning.

At the Upton Jazz Festival late one night he got into a marquee with a piano and started playing, soon a jam session took off. It woke up the organiser who promptly banned Neil from any future festival for life! He was soon back.

Neil was a deep sea Captain and Master Mariner and travelled the world and always insisted on having a piano aboard ship. He met many musicians along the way including Max Collie in Australia. They had many Jam sessions when in dock and ashore.

When he was given another ship the piano unfortunately had to go. He insisted it was given a fond farewell over the side of the ship! On his travels Neil met many Jazz greats and tinkled the Ivories with George Shearing, Count Basie, Dave Brubeck, Jay McShan, Slim Gaillard, Slam Stewart to name a but a few. He got to know the great Winifred Atwell, and once played piano with her until the early hours after the show at the New Theatre.



In New Orleans, on Bourbon Street, he got on an empty band stand and played piano, to an appreciative evening crowd for 40 minutes or so. A Steinway piano beckoned in a nearby 'antique' shop and he ended up accompanying an Italian tenor who was the salesman. They did Neapolitan love songs which Neil knew by heart. There was a large crowd who applauded every number. The owner offered him a Job!

Neil decided to finish deep sea sailing and became a Bristol Channel Pilot and by then he had a wife and three children. He decided to start Cardiff Sports Gear and became a successful business man. Music was never far away.

Paul Dunleavy

Our Programme

Now that Spring has Sprung, why not hop along to Cafe Jazz every Tuesday, or as many as you can. Some nights over the last few months have had disappointing attendances, mainly weather related, and there's nothing worse for the musicians, than playing to an empty or half full room. So if you can come along – great!

3rd Apr

The Dave Smith Quartet with Dave, tpt, Phil Wall, reeds, Vic Partridge, banjo/guitar and Steve Davis, Brass Bass.

10th Apr

The Camelia and Gut Bucket Jazz Bands.

Reports tell me that Sam has made a good recovery from his attack of gout and he is rarin' to go. So something slightly different with the two bands, which I'm sure you will enjoy

Line up:- John Minnion, John Davies, Pete Locke, Sarah Thatcher, Pete Berry & Clarence Nugent.

Gut Bucket :- Sam Sims, banjo, mandolin & slide guitar, Graham Wilkins, steel guitar, Sarah Thatcher, Mike Kennedy and Clarence.

17th Apr

The Society Band.

Gwyn Lewis will be making a welcome return to Cardiff, and will join John Scantlebury, Pete Locke, Roy Davies, Steve Davis and Clarence Nugent.

24th Apr

Ron King's Rhythm Aces

The band make a welcome return visit, with Ron on trumpet, Andy Leggett, reeds, Pete Mathison, gtr, Mike Kennedy, bass and Jane Williams, vocals.

1st May

Phil Wall and his Jazz Cardinals

Phil is joined by Paul Munnery, Sarah Thatcher and Steve Davis. More obscure tunes from Phil & Co.

8th May

Hot Strings Café

Heulwen Thomas, violin, is joined by Hwyl Maggs, Mike Frost, guitars and Donnie Joe Sweeney on bass

15th May

Standards Remembered

This is a new combination formed by Vic Partridge with Vic on banjo/guitar, John Legg, reeds, Steve Davis, brass bass and Gary Philips, drums

22nd May

Dave Smith Quartet with Dave, Vic Partridge, Steve Davis and guest Dave Wood on reeds. Dave missed the earlier session this year due to bad weather. So, here's a chance to catch him this time.

29th May

Preservation Rhythm Kings

Roy and the Lads make a return visit with Preservation Rhythm Kings, with John Minnion, Phil Wall, Paul Munnery, Roy Davies, Mike Gale and Clarence Nugent.

June 5th

Our Summer Special:- Emily and her Gang.

They were great last time, so here's another chance to hear and see them
Emily Bacon piano & vocals, Liz Bacon clarinet, Peter Wright cornet, Jeff Milner trombone, Paul Bacon drums, Sarah Thatcher and Spike Kennedy

June 12

T.B.A.

June 19th

Moonshine Boulevard

Tudor and the lads pay us a return visit, with Tudor on banjo, Pete Locke, Jeff Matthews, Pete Berry and Ron King.

June 24th

The John Davies Quintet TBC

Line up :- John Davies, Paul Munnery, Richard West, Vic Partridge and Roy Cansdale.



Jeff Milner



**Liz Bacon, clt. Emily Bacon, Pete Wright, tpt and Jeff |Milner
Paul Bacon, drums, Sarah Thatcher and Spike Kennedy**





PJS Gig List



April

3	The Dave Smith Quartet
10	The Camelia and Gut Bucket Bands
17	The Society Jazz Band with Gwyn Lewis
24	Ron King's Rhythms Aces

May

1	Phil Wall's Jazz Cardinals
8	Hot Strings Cafe
15	Standards Remembered
22	Dave Smith Quartet with Dave Wood
29	The Preservation Rhythm Kings

June

5	Emily and her Gang ***Our Spring Special £5 Adm.***
12	T.B.A
19	Moonshine Boulevard
26	The John Davies Quintet TBC

Join our Mailing List and receive weekly reminders of "What's ON"
Just send a note to:- pjscardiff@btinternet.com
All photographs © Paul Dunleavy or Alun Jones
Café Jazz - The Sandringham Hotel, St. Mary Street, Cardiff
Admission - unless otherwise stated
P.J.S Members & Concessions £4.00 - Non Members £4.50, Students £2.00.
Specials £5.00



The PJS Acknowledge assistance from Dutton Hotels