



*PJS
Gig List*

January

- 11 Henry Davies Hot Six
18 Gwyn Lewis & the Speakeasy Jazz Band
25 The Icon Jazzmen

February

- 1 John Scantleburys' Chosen Four
8 Norman Thatchers' New Orleans Band
15 Martin Butterworth - A New Old Fashioned
Band
22 Phil Walls' Jazz Cardinals

March

- 1 Liberty Street
8 The Dick Williams Six
15 The Memphis Seven
22 The Keith Little Hot Six

Café Jazz - The Sandringham Hotel, St. Mary Street, Cardiff

Admission - unless otherwise stated Specials £4 / £5 (Students £2)

P.J.S Members & Concessions £3.00, Non Members £3.50, Students £2.00



Jazz Reunion 2005

**Phil Mason All Stars
with
Christine Tyrell**

Friday 21st January 2005

**Earl Haig (British Legion) Club
Penlline Road, Whitchurch**

8:30 - Midnight

Admission :- £7.00



The PJS Acknowledge financial assistance from The Arts Council of Wales

*Bob Gribble
1946 - 2004*

We were shocked to learn about the death of trombonist Bob Gribble who died suddenly over the Christmas period. As well as playing trombone Bob could play banjo, most of the reed instruments, brass bass and so on. In particular, he was featured on reeds in Phil Wall's Jazz Cardinals. Bob was a lovely fellow, who had a wonderful dry sense of humour and a very good friend. His gravel voice vocals were something to experience and his presence in a band always enhanced the performance. His death is a tragic loss to his friends and musical colleagues and will be sorely missed by everyone.

I have re-printed an article written by Martin Butterworth in December 1992 on the first 10 years of the Acme.(see centre pages). Martin left the band in 1995 and they had a unique idea of having a Guest Trumpeter list with a different trumpeter leading the band every week, which was a very successful format. Sarah Roofe (now Mrs Thatcher) joined the band, Steve Davis replaced Jayne and the band stayed that way until a few years ago when Norman Thatcher took over the trumpet chair. On 7th Jan 2002 they celebrated their 19th year at the Engineers, after which they left due to a landlord change. The band then played at different venues in the Newport area until finally calling it a day earlier this year.

Many thanks to those who have renewed their membership and in particular to those who gave an extra contribution to the funds which we are very grateful for.

Phil Mason is booked for our **Jazz Reunion**, which is on the **21st Jan 2005** at the British Legion in Whitchurch. Ticket will cost **£7.00** and you can reserve them by giving me a call on **029 2062 5639**. or pay on the door. So come along, tell your friends, and make it an enjoyable evening. It would help if you ring and let me know that you are coming so that I can keep tickets for you. This is the only event of the year that we can raise funds so your presence would be appreciated.



What's On

Sunday

Jazz Paraders	The Court House - Caerphilly	Fortnightly
The Society Jazz Band	The Royal Oak - Whitchurch	Check 2062 5639

Mondays

Cardinals or Camelia	Heritage Centre, Pill, Newport	8:30 - 11:00 pm
Speakeasy Jazz Band	Uplands Tavern Swansea	1st & 3 rd

Tuesdays

The Preservation Jazz Society	Café Jazz The Sandringham Hotel, St. Mary St. Cardiff	8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
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Wednesdays

Various Bands	St James's Club - Uplands Swansea	Check 01792 654428
Keith Little Hot Six	The Windsor Hotel - Penarth	Alt Weeks
The Liberty Street Stompers	The Windsor Hotel - Penarth	Alt Weeks

Thursdays

Midnight Special	The Butchers Rhiwbina	8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
The Jazz Paraders	The Hand Post Newport	8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
Various Traditional Bands	Roof Top Café Grand Theatre Swansea	8:30 - 11:00 p.m.

Fridays

Torfaen Jazz Society	Sebastopol Social Club	8:30 - 11:00 p.m.
Various Bands	Griffithstown - Pontypool	check :- 01495 762504

Jazz on the Air

Sunday	Wales	09.05	Dewi Griffiths - String of Pearls also at 3 p.m Second String
Sunday	Radio 2	22.00	Malcolm Laycock - The Age of Swing
Monday	Radio 2	20.00	Humphrey Lyttleton - The Best of Jazz
		22.00	Big Band Special -Helen Mayhew
Friday	Radio 3	19.00	Jazz Legends
Saturday	Radio 3	16.00	Jazz Line Up - various
	Radio 3	17.00	Jazz Record Requests - followed by Jazz File.

West Country Jazz

Clevedon Jazz Club
The Avon Suite - Walton Park Hotel - 2nd & 4th Thursday each month

Visit the P.J.S.

<http://website.lineone.net/~pjscardiff>

The Acme Band - A Potted History by Martin Butterworth

The very first Acme Band consisted of: Gwyn Lewis, cornet; Bob Gribble, trombone; Henry Butcher, clarinet, Howell Bines, piano; Jim "Sam" Sims, banjo; and Cyril "Griff" Griffiths, bass guitar. The first gigs, from March 1980 were for Newport Folk Club at the Westgate, Newport. Unfortunately, Howell had to leave the band after only a few weeks. For a time the band played at The Isca on Wednesday evenings, then Sam left the area for a number of years.

Early in 82 they played for a while at the Pittsburg Diner, a strange venue where the band played until eleven, to the seemingly delighted owner and his barmaid in an otherwise empty bar. The customers did not turn up until the last few minutes of the gig as this was a late-night restaurant which did not begin to get busy until the pubs closed.

Martin Butterworth first played with the band at this job, with himself on guitar and Bob Gribble on banjo taking turns to swap between front line and rhythm. Martin temporarily left the area in late 82.

From Monday 31st Jan 83, the band took up residency at the Engineers Arms, initially fortnightly, with Gary Bond (piano) and Carl Butcher (banjo) added. From about October 83 Martin, on soprano sax and clarinet rejoined the band, replacing Henry, and shortly afterwards Griff was replaced by Alan Browning on bass. In due course Alan was replaced by Roger Morris, and later Rob Pepperall on electric bass, and Carl was succeeded by Vic Partridge, and later Martin Preece on banjo, and Gary Bond left the band.

During 84 or 85 the band also appeared at the Waterloo, near Newport docks, and Pete Locke and Norman Partridge were frequent deputies at this time. This was another odd gig, a vast Victorian pub serving, amongst other things, a particularly murky and memorable cider. Often very quiet, occasionally a shipload of sailors would appear as would the ladies of the night, and the resulting negotiations provided a great deal of entertainment for the band.

At around this same time Gwyn Lewis left Newport to return to the Swansea area, and finding the travelling excessive, was replaced by trumpeter Ron King. Clarinettist Phil Wall started to regularly visit the Engineers and have a sit-in deputise for Martin, and soon became a permanent member.

By the time of their first Brecon Festival appearance in 86 the line-up was: Ron King, trumpet; Bob Gribble, trombone; Phil Wall, clarinet; Martin Butterworth, soprano sax and clarinet; Martin Preece, banjo; Rob Pepperall, bass guitar; John Bennett, drums. Sometime around this period the band bravely took a cut in the money to change from fortnightly to weekly at the Engineers, a move which proved a great success. The rate of pay was soon restored and improved upon, and the band flatters itself that the crowd was so large that the brewery was forced to buy the house next door to extend the pub! Rob on bass guitar was replaced by fellow Caerleon student Aaron Peterson, and this was the band which recorded the first Acme tape "Hot Pressed" in February 87, with the addition of Jayne on trombone on a few of the tracks.

This line-up remained unaltered for several years, with Martin branching out on alto and then baritone saxophones, and Aaron converting to double bass. In the winter of 88/89 the band played for a while on Sunday lunch times at the Cotton Club in Newport, and due to various difficulties there were changes in personnel from time to time. Sarah Roofe frequently played the banjo, whilst Steve Davis on tuba and Jayne, now on double bass, also appeared, and in the absence of Ron, Martin would lead the band on soprano. A highlight at this venue was the memorable occasion on which we accompanied Keith and Marcia Pendlebury.

In early 1990, Martin Preece left the band, and we would have naturally given the banjo job to Sarah, but she had gone to work in the south of France. Martin B. played the banjo for a few weeks, but somebody said that they had seen, but not spoken to, Sam the original banjo player, who had moved back to the area. However, lacking any other point of contact an advert was placed in the local paper, "Sam, your band needs you!", and so he got his old job back after an absence of a decade. Sadly, Sarah's job in France did not prove satisfactory, and she returned after just a few weeks to find that her place in the band had been and gone.

Ron had now moved to Bristol, and had to give up the band, so following the experiments at the Cotton Club, Martin permanently took over the lead. That year Aaron finished college and moved away, his place being taken by Jayne, who had been sitting-in regularly for some time. Thus we have come to the present band: Martin Butterworth on soprano sax, clarinet, baritone sax, sound effects and vocals, Bob Gribble on slide and valve trombones, and vocals, Phil Wall on clarinet, alto sax and tin whistle, Sam Sims on banjo, numerous sorts of guitar and musical saw, Jayne Gregory on double bass, sousaphone and trombone, and John Bennett on drums.

Over the years we have enjoyed the company of many sitters-in and deputies, including trumpeters Roger Bibbings from Devon, Chris Hodgkins, Jeff Meredith, Norman Partridge and the late John Bridges, reedmen Ceri Rees, Alun Jones and John Collier, drummers Mike Pearce, Tom Rosser, Les Thomas, Bob Hicks, also stalwart trombone dep. Pete Locke, banjoist Sid Powell, and doubtless many others to whom we apologise for being unable to recall them all.

We have also had the privilege of backing major guest artists Alan Elsdon, the Pendleburys, Lol Coxhill, Bob Kerr and Digby Fairweather. We hope to appear again with Digby for the PJS on December 22nd at the Four Bars Inn in Cardiff. On Monday 1st Feb.1993 we will be marking our decade of residency at the Engineers with an all-day jazz session in aid of local charity. All musicians will be warmly welcomed, especially anyone who has ever played with the band, along with supporters old and new. The full details have yet to be finalised, but please make a note in your diaries of what we hope will be a memorable occasion. Finally, the Acme Band must thank above all our hosts at the Engineers, Roger and Diane Boswell, without whom most of the above would have been impossible. Do come along, any Monday. Remember that we need your regular support at all of the local band residencies, without this there would be no bands to support, nor a PJS!

Martin Butterworth 1990



This is quite a rare photograph of Bob (taken from my TV) when he was a member of the Icon Jazzmen. For those interested the Icon Line up was :- Geoff Palsler tbn, Mike Palsler Tpt, Alun Jones Clt. Eddie Williams Bjo, Keith Little Pno and Clarence Nugent drums. Also I had hair in those days and the programme was called "Pollination" which was screened by HTV in 1976.



The Acme Jazz Band circa 1990. Bob Gribble tbn, John Bennett drms, Phil Wall Clt. Jayne Gregory bass, Sam Sims Bjo and Martin Butterworth reeds

Our Programme

Bob Gribble had organised a band to play on the 25th January but in the circumstances they preferred not to play at this time. I have booked the Icon to play instead, as everyone in the band had played with Bob, and we'll dedicate a few numbers to him. If any of Bobs' musical colleagues would like a sit in on that night they would be most welcome.

Thanks to Jeff Meredith for reorganising John Evans' Swing five at short notice, with John Collier, replacing John, who is hospitalised at the moment. We wish John a speedy return to full health and look forward to seeing him in March.

January

The 11th sees Bristol's **Henry Davies** and his Hot Six make a welcome return with some fine 20's classic jazz - not to be missed. **Gwyn Lewis** (its his birthday) will be with us on the 18th with the Speakeasy boys. The 26th will have the **Icon Jazzmen** back to replace Bob's gig.

February starts off with **John Scantlebury's' chosen 4** - if it's anything like the last time John played you're in for a good time - some excellent New Orleans style reed playing, ably backed by Clarence Nugent, Eddie Williams, Alan Browning and John Jenkins. The 8th sees the return of naturalised Welshman, **Norman Thatcher**, with his New Orleans Band featuring clarinetist Keith Box and trombonist Tom Whittingham. The 15th has **Martin Butterworth** with "A New Old Fashioned Band" which features Martin and Ceri Williams in a Bechet style presentation.. Finally in February we have **Phil Wall's Jazz Cardinals** with Hugh Roberts, from Bristol, taking Bob G's place.

March starts off with **Liberty Street** with John, Marcus and Simon fronting the rhythm section of Dewi, Derek and Graham, then on the 8th it's the turn of the Dick Williams Six., 15th Memphis Seven and 22nd Keith Little Hot Six.

Diary Dates

If you fell like a trip away here's a few ideas

March 4/5/6 **Bude Spring Jazz Break** - Hartland Hotel - : 01288 355661
 April 22/23/24 **Lee Bay Hot Jazz Weekend** - phone :- 01271867600
 April 28/29/30 May 1/2 **Isle of Bute Jazz Festival** - phone :- 01700 502151
 June 24/25/26 **Upton upon Seven** - phone:- 01684 593254
 28 Aug - 4 Sept The 17th **Bude Jazz Festival** - phone :- 01288 356360