

OLD BARN HALL JAZZ CLUB

newsletter 2/24

i am so pleased at the influx of new members undoubtedly down to Graham and his team of helpers continuously beavering away, getting involved with the local community and just as pleasing quite a few are becoming regulars. It was something I couldn't achieve in my time, living so far away from Gt Bookham. Of course it doesn't stop there because a lot of our older members take it on themselves to welcome any new faces that appear. Great team work all round, not least from the kitchen who continue to please just about everyone with the table service, fresh food and plenty of it. My one greatest wish has always been that the Old Barn Hall Jazz Club should outlive others to repay our dedicated regulars for their unbelievable support through the years. Onwards and upwards is the way. My wish is being granted thank you everyone.

Because of the upturn in support i have been able to increase payment to the Bands at the moment to help with travel costs, From Sept 1st this year all musicians will now be receiving an extra £5, which will replace the interim travel cost payment they have been receiving, I know it doesn't sound a lot but throughout the year it amounts to well over £1200. i have a plan to assist all regulars in December this year with FREE tea and coffee throughout the month, (should save a few bob on entry) we will be re-imbursing the kitchen with no cost to them, which of course relies on the present average of entry being maintained which i am sure it will be. Because of the great support from you all it shows what we can achieve. One new band this year and a completely reformed outfit which should be quite interesting look out for them both.

On the subject of young new Bands which raises its head occasionally, it seems that most of them also seem to have a younger following and it seems that most of them play in and around the London area. To me the tempos are not great for the dancers of our generation but with the young followers, they have developed a different dance style of the period to suit the music. At the moment it pleases me to see the lindy hoppers, salsa, balboa, and quick

steppers have taken to dancing to Jazz at the weekend events and at our Jazz clubs, long may it continue. I have also noticed that the good old British pastime of "people watching" the dancers is still very much observed. I am also one of the watchers wishing i was young enough to join in the fray.

You never know but the followers and Musicians of the younger brigade may run alongside our interests that we enjoy and one day lo and behold we could join forces. In particular the Bands that are led by Ewan Bleach are superb musicians that swing along very nicely with sometimes over 10 in the Band with seemingly small audiences. A following of dancers that dress 20s / 50s style accordingly, a style of dance going perfectly with the swing music as seen by the Band on YOU TUBE. I think, if they can afford to, they could well be the style of Jazz that heralds a new future in Jazz Clubs as we have known them. SWING MUSIC is hovering Ewan Bleach style, waiting for acceptance. Check them out at the Winning Post, well worth support, see what you think. They will certainly need larger audiences to proceed with the larger amount of musicians that are being used to the success that they deserve.

Our first new Band was the Paula Jackman Band well received by many but as usual you can't please all of the people all of the time so it was split about 60-40 in favour it seems. Most of the other Bands this year seem to have passed scrutiny of the nit pickers. As all the bands are booked early to make sure that OBH are well looked after during the year, i always grant 2 gigs to all Bands, so if there is a band you are not too keen on for the sake of the Club you may have to suffer them twice, I do myself with some bands every year. Thinking they could be other OBH members favourite Bands.

FULLY BOOKED 2024 AND 2025

I have the opportunity of booking the Freetime Dixie Jazz band from Holland next year, an all time favourite of ours from Preston Cross days. With Spiralling costs for their travel it would be necessary to raise the entry for their one off visit to £20. Plenty of time, please let Graham or me know if you are OK with that.

Mick W