

R J C Newsletter 40

Very remiss of me that this newsletter follows a full 6 months after no:39 [24th April] when I usually manage to get one done about every 3 months. Have I been too busy? No busier than usual, I suppose, but at my age I can't really remember. Anyway, the main thing is that I now bring you all up to date with the 'happenings' at the jazz club and the other associated news.

Guests' Gallery

We encourage guest musicians to come to the club and join us for a few numbers, and some become 'regulars'. For example, **John Cheetham**, string bass, has quickly moved from the 'tentative' stage to the 'accomplished' and we now use him as a dep. He has a sit-in at most sessions and actually covered for regular bassist, Steve Johnson, in June. Well, he did for part of the session; until his son dashed in to tell him that mother was being rushed by air ambulance to Middlesbrough hospital. Fortunately Jackie was soon 'put right' and was allowed home within days, but the incident certainly caused a buzz at the club. The then depleted rhythm section was bolstered by adding one or more guests at various times - banjoists **Mark Gerrard** and **Martin Rooney** {so that John Hesp could stay on guitar}, together with **Simon Richardson** on keyboard. Also occasional visitor, **Colin Larn**, drummer with Pedigree Jazz, sat in on drums. Malcolm Rooney is a fairly recent convert to trad jazz, being persuaded by our trumpet player, Charles Appleyard, to try it as an addition to the 'Irish music' he usually plays. He covered for John Hesp at the August clubnight. Our September session was unusual in that we had no drummer – the plan went awry!! Mike Wilson has been our drummer since the very first meeting of the jazz club in 2000 and I only ever remember him missing for medical reasons, but on this occasion it was for a holiday. [He complained that his son had booked it without realising that Mike would miss our gig plus three other music sessions, but he did admit afterwards that he had enjoyed the break]. Conscientious as ever, Mike had arranged his own cover but the dep drummer made a mistake with the date so no drummer! - but fortunately it was another night when guests Mark Gerrard and Malcolm Rooney could add their banjos to the rhythm section.

October was like a reversal of times a year or more ago when John Welford used to dep on clarinet for **Graham Macpherson**. Graham was our regular reed player [and occasional violinist – and he even sang once] until he retired from us last year following a serious heart operation. Now fully recovered he agreed to cover John's absence – and it was great to welcome him back. We also had **Jerry Coleman** again, but this time on tenor sax. Jerry lives near Aberdeen and came to us last October as well, but then he brought his soprano sax. His eyesight is very poor and he needs to be guided between tables and into his playing position. We discussed during the interval the pieces he would like to play and he joined us for numbers at the beginning and end of the second set. He said that most of his playing had to be done alone at home because he found it difficult to get out to venues so he had really enjoyed a blow with us. We've sent him a recording of the whole session as a memento and to play along to at home. [Jerry's daughter Katy visited us in April 2001 and sang a few numbers.]

It's always worthwhile welcoming guests. They add a new dimension to the regular line-up which the audience can appreciate, and when a guest fits in well, and lives near enough to be called as a dep, that's a bonus. As I've said before, how would band and club organisers manage without deps?

Bryan Peirson, committee member

We were shocked to learn of the totally unexpected death of Bryan in June. He had been a member of the Ryedale Jazz Society committee for years, one of those invaluable people who would always 'get things done'. In fact he was our main link with Pickering Memorial Hall, the venue for our Jazz Festival evening sessions. He will be greatly missed.

Brief report - 5th Ryedale Trad Jazz Festival, 23 – 29 July

Why only 'brief' when I should be boasting it's success? Well, mainly because there is already a full page report in print; it's in the November issue of Just Jazz magazine, out now. And we have moved on to promoting the 2018 Festival – see later. I can safely say, though, that the 2017 Festival was a success with audiences and with bands, feedback from both was generally very positive. Importantly, of course, all costs were covered, admittedly reliant again on Amy Ward's magnificent 18-prizes-per-night raffle, but I expect most small-capacity venues will face this challenge. In-house brochure design [Graham Lyons, our Treasurer] and ticket sales [Amy, our treasure] help to keep costs down so, with some confidence, we decided there would be no increase in ticket prices for 2018.

