



Saturday 21st. January 2017

**Martin Bennett's
Old Green River Band**

- it's the font of all knowledge - some would say !

Our Festive Extravaganza between Christmas and the New Year would have benefitted, sadly like many other New Orleans Style Jazz offerings on our 'Brexited Isle' these days, from having a slightly larger fan base. On the other hand those supportive and enthusiastic souls who formed the modest audience appeared to greatly enjoy the musical fayre on offer.

Tonight's band is under the stewardship of a celebrated and popular musician who has probably given more performances in Dove than any other of his ilk over almost the whole time that jazz music has been played in our village - the legendary Mr. Martin Bennett. It was he who produced those never to be forgotten sessions in the Festival Real Ale Marquee year after year with the members of his own band joined by numerous guest musicians. In addition it was Martin who had the great wisdom to baptise us 'The Centre of the Universe.' It has certainly been an extremely productive relationship that goes back to our very first Jazz Concert in our Community Hall, as it was then called, on the 7th November 1992. A most enjoyable occasion as I remember - Martin made a lasting impression with his skill as an imposing tailgate trombonist as he then was as well as being a not to be sniffed at gravelly vocalist. Also in the class line up that day were Ged Hone (trumpet), Chris Blount (clarinet), Annie Hawkins (string bass), Colin Bowden (drums) and an extremely youngish Tom Langham on banjo. They played to a largish and enthusiastic audience who, if my memory serves me right, contained virtually no artificial thigh and knee joints, very few pill poppers and whose collective doctors and hospital appointments in any six month period would not go into double figures. They did not have to worry about their alcoholic intake nor parking up mobility aids in the porch and they also possessed the stamina to remain in the auditorium until the band had finished playing their closing number. Oh what happy and carefree days they were that I for one certainly thought would never end !

This evening the 'Line Up' will most definitely contain, fresh from his alleged Pantomime debut as the Dame of Keswick or should that be damned in Keswick, **Mr Howard Murray** ably demonstrating his much appreciated talents on a variety of **reed instruments** as part of a front line that equally enjoys those talents too of **Stan Williams** on **trumpet** and that local made good **Eric Brierley** from Hayfield on **trombone**. A mighty powerhouse of a rhythm section will feature **Bill Buck** in the **drum chair**, **Ed Lloyd Hughes** and his **string bass** whilst on the **piano stool** we will have the brains behind the Old Green River Band **Mr Martin Bennett** himself, its vastly experienced musically and widely travelled leader, arranger and vocalist.

It is at this stage that with more than a hint of sadness I'm afraid I must inform you of the death of one of the Jazz Club's truly loyal and faithful benefactors Mr. Reg Rose. This most proud Scotsman and readily adopted son of Dove will long be remembered for his generosity towards and interest in the village in which he lived for many years. Many of you will remember the gallon bottle of whisky that we used to raffle on the Saturday night of the Jazz Festival. What you will not know is that it was Reg's kind offices that always made sure that we were in possession of this valuable prize.

Tonight's musical offering will be yet another jazz gathering that you can ill afford to miss. You will be able to take part in our raffle for around half a dozen or so glittering prizes. I would like to offer my sincere thanks to all those many kindly folk who donated the much appreciated raffle prizes in 2016. Long may their generosity continue! Please feel free to join this throng. The marvellous and much more munchy Butcher Burnham Pork Pies will be on sale to delight your taste buds once again after their absence last month. Please don't forget that on Saturday the 18th February we will have Baby Jools with his Jazzaholics to entertain you in their own inimitable style.

RTM

Our next attraction - February 18th. 2017

The Jazzaholics

For all Club news -

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this year !