



Saturday, 20th. April 2019

The Wabash Jazzmen

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

After a week of mixed weather the arrival of the Jazzaholics at our Village Hall in March was heralded by yet another incorrect weather forecast predicting snow for the evening of their Concert from those knowledgeable people at the Met Office. Sadly this is not the first instance of a shadow being cast over our numbers by 'Michael Fish' style predictions. Fortunately the much loved Jazzaholics were able to attract a crowd of almost 70 goodly souls to experience their renditions, averting what could have been a bit of a disaster. Their competent performance once again clearly demonstrated the fully merited elevation of their status on the British Jazz Scene and further afield.

Tonight marks the return to the Dove boards of that extremely hot yet drumless musical combination known as the Wabash Jazzmen. It is a much respected outfit that has enjoyed a huge following since its conception by its current leader in 1994. It has its roots loosely based on what many would still call and recognise as being the 'Potteries' although its present line up does include a couple of overseas players from the twitch free cricketing squares of South Manchester.

As you will be able to hear first-hand tonight the absence of a drum kit is more than compensated for by the driving **banjo** playing of their band leader and paymaster **Mark Challinor**. Mark's considerable musical prowess is most ably promoted by the entertaining and powerful **bass** playing of **Richard Vernon**. Richard is a vastly experienced string bass player whom it is always a special pleasure to welcome back to the Centre of the Universe. He has shared his musical gifts with a large number of the jazz greats during his long playing career. Who can forget his numerous appearances playing alongside the greatly missed but never forgotten Tommy Burton and his almost unique Sporting House Quartet that featured Dave Holmes on drums and a youngish Tom Langham on banjo and guitar playing alongside Mr Vernon. I don't think that it is a state secret that a

young Mr Langham always lovingly and respectfully referred to him as 'Mr Pastry', and still does !

Featuring on the front line on **trumpet and harmonica** plus the odd vocal will be **Bill Smith** a man whose enthusiasm for our music never gives any hint of waning. His energetic approach to his profession is a glowing example to many much younger musicians who could do much worse than take a leaf out of his book. Much the same sentiments could be expressed about tonight's **trombone** maestro **Mike Pembroke** who joins Bill in being described as an overseas player residing amongst the cricketing strongholds of Bredbury, Woodley, Romiley and Compstall. It is a pleasure to welcome Mike back to our jazz podium after a short enforced break from the music scene due to ill health. We trust that you will greatly enjoy your return to the fullness of health. We have **Mike Hayler** on **clarinet and tenor sax** completing the front line. He is eternally grateful to the 'Centre of the Universe' for affording him the opportunity to be a founder member of the indefatigable 'Bibbington Limeburners' Brass Band; Dove's answer to the Eureka Brass Band and many others of a similar ilk. His dedication to the cause of 'Temperance' that the Limeburners famously promoted earned him many fanciful plaudits. Cousin Geoffrey will certainly be watching over you on home ground tonight Mike!

The Famous Butcher Burnham's Pork Pies will be on sale along with a drop of lovingly conditioned Wainwrights real ale with that award winning taste. Your loose change will easily fit into the raffle pot for a more than reasonable chance of winning one of several bountiful prizes.

Our May Concert on the 18th will feature Tom Langham and his good friends from the Cotswolds with a carefully chosen programme delivered with their usual polished panache, playing tunes that were a little ahead of their time shall we say. The clue is in the title 'And the Band Played On.' You will not be disappointed with the fayre I assure you. RTM

Our next attraction - Saturday, May 18th. 2019

Hot Fingers with Emily Campbell

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