

U3A Jazz Appreciation Network
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Hallo All,

Greeting from a rain-sodden Somerset. We are not actually flooded but we can see the inland sea that was once the Somerset Levels from here and we know most of the people you've seen on TV, shouting at Ministers.

I know that this Newsletter is overdue – sorry about that, but I have been awaiting news of Study Day 2014. Scott Stroman and the splendid Guildhall School of Music are happy to do another one for us – we've even homed in on a likely date – July 16th. The problem is venue. I've been hanging on whilst the Bridewell Theatre planned their activities but I have just learned that they cannot accommodate us. The Theatre is solidly booked at that time. I shall just have to try other venues. If anyone has any ideas, do let me know. Ideally, we are looking for a central London location, capable of taking an audience of about 50, plus a band of – say – 20 + musicians. Ideally, too, it should have some sort of cafeteria facilities for teas and coffees beforehand and at lunch time. And be affordable – we can run to £600 - £700 for the hire fee. In the meantime, I'll dig around to see what I can find.

13th February – Scott Stroman at Fleet U3A

On the subject of Scott Stroman, may I draw your attention to an event being organised by Fleet U3A's enterprising Jazz Appreciation Group. Get your diaries and check **13 February**. Scott Stroman, who Study Day attendees will know is Professor of Jazz at Guildhall School of Music, is talking to the Fleet J A G. at **St Philip & St James church, Kings Road, Fleet, GU51 3AR**. Start time is **10.30**. Mike Rance is the Fleet group leader and is happy to welcome any U3A jazz lover to the event. Those of you who have attended any of the three Study Days Scott has done for us will know that he is a lively and entertaining speaker. Mike Rance's phone number is 01252 616937. Let's ensure a good turn-out for the event.

Jazz Weekend at Mill Rythe Holiday Village, Hayling Island

Bob Jones has arranged another 'U3A Special' at this popular venue – I know a lot of you went last year and thoroughly enjoyed it. I've appended a notice at the end of this Newsletter. There's no need to involve Bob – just book direct quoting the group reference number. As you'll see from the musicians attending, this is one for Trad enthusiasts.

Advance warning – next Christmas.

The other day I got a flyer from Greatdays Travel Group. They put on 1940s themed events – games, competitions, dinner, period music...that sort of thing. Venues are Blackburn, Chester, St Albans, Maidstone and Warwick. I know that there are many of you who enjoy that sort of event so if you are interested, please contact daytrips@greatdays.co.uk. Phone Jennie or Louise on 0161 928 2001, or write to Greatdays Travel Group, FREEPOST ALM1632, Altrincham, WA15 9RA. Dates are between 11th Nov and 2nd December. I'm sure you all appreciate that I get a number of these communications and I simply pass them on for what they're worth. I'm certainly not recommending anything I haven't been to. If any of you have been to any of these do's, what did you make of it? Did you enjoy it? Was it value for money. I'll happily pass on your views (provided they're not actionable) in a future Newsletter.

Is anybody interested in acquiring CDs for their group?

I know ...I promised to write a piece on 'what to do with all of Dad's stuff...' I will, honestly, as I know that it is an issue for the widows and children of deceased jazz enthusiasts. I have such a situation here in Somerset. Dennis Martin, the leader of the Bridgwater U3A jazz appreciation group, died last March. He had a garage-full of jazz and other music material. His widow is not seeking to sell the items; she wants them to go to someone who will enjoy them, in return for a donation to Macmillan Nurses. We have found homes for a lot of the CDs via U3As in the Somerset area. But I still have several hundred CDs. Dennis was a swing era lover so there are any number of cds of that period. About 90% are compilations, some better than others. You all know the problem with many compilations - the lack of recording dates, personnels etc. Quite a number were newspaper offers – Mail, Express, Telegraph, Times. Another sizeable element in the collection is British Dance bands, from 30s to 50s. I have a boxful of singers – Lena Horne, Dinah Shore, Ella, Sarah , Sinatra and Crosby. Dennis's interests weren't confined to jazz and swing. I have two boxes of classical music – I can't really sum it up in a few words but again there are compilations – e.g. from newspapers & Classic FM. Dennis also ran a nostalgia group, so there are cds of Music Hall artists, cds entitled Golden Hits of 54, We'll Meet Again, Best of Broadway. Then there are story cds (Narnia for ex, and something from the Royal Shakespeare company) and items like BBC History Eye witness, 125 years of music, etc. If there is anything there that you think might be of use to your groups (I know that some of you run *music* appreciation groups, rather than jazz), email me and I'll send you track lists. If you decide that there's something that you want, I'll send it to you in return for postage and a donation (amount I leave to you) to Macmillan.

Interest list

If you get this and you don't want to, please let me know. I try to keep up to date with who is interested and who isn't, but there's only me... Sorry if I've got it wrong, (remember, to err is human...). Equally, if there are people in your groups who'd like to be on the list, please let me know. Let me explain, too, that because of data protection rules, the database listing you all is held securely at National Office. I collect additions, deletions and amendments and forward them. National Office also actually send out my communications;

I draft, they send. Even if I wanted to (which I don't) I couldn't send out the required number of emails – my ISP would damn me as a Spammer and cast me into the nether darkness.

Community Radio

I know that a number of you, like me, do jazz record shows on various small community radio stations. It occurs to me that many interested members might not be aware of this and might well enjoy tuning in for 'our kind of music.' Like ours here in Somerset, many are small FM stations with limited local range but for those with internet access, the programme can be found via the Internet. Usually, you find the radio station's web page and just click on 'Listen Now'. Would those of you who present such shows like to let me have details – name of radio station, how to access it, time of show's transmission, and I'll put the info in the next Newsletter. I know that there are some BBC Local Radio stations that have very good jazz shows, but there aren't that many of them.

I'll kick off with information about ours.

I take turns (there are 5 of us) to present a weekly show on 10 Radio, that broadcasts from Wiveliscombe. www.10radio.org. The show goes out from 8 pm to 10 pm on Tuesdays. Among our team of stellar presenters are the Jazz Journal writer and critic Barry Witherden and professional bass player Phil Kent (Phil was Bob Wallis's Storeyville Jazzmen's bass player for many years).

And in Taunton, we have ToneFM (107.8 or <http://tonefm.co.uk>) where my friend and Taunton U3A colleague Tony Soley presents a jazz show on Sundays, from 7 pm to 9 pm.

National Jazz Archive

I know I've mentioned this before but I'll do it again – have you come across the National Jazz Archive ? It is an archive of just about everything to do with jazz in Britain other than actual recordings. Please go to the Archive's website and read about its resources, and future events. Sign up for emailed updates.

The Archive has a Learning and Outreach officer – Sam Fieldhouse. Sam is more than happy to meet U3A groups at the Archive – indeed a number of J A Gs have made visits. All that Sam asks is that you phone before visiting. The Archive is free but, as with any charitable organisation, donations never come amiss. www.nationaljazzarchive.org.uk. 020 8502 4701

The National Jazz Archive, Loughton Library, Traps Hill, Loughton, Essex, IG10 1HD.

That's all. Do get in touch with me with ideas for a Study Day venue. Or regarding anything else you think I should (try to) do

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UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE
JAZZ APPRECIATION – JAZZ WEEKEND
MILL RYTHER HOLIDAY VILLAGE

Hayling Island, Hampshire, PO11 0PB

‘A Summer Jazz Party’

20th – 23rd June 2014

With some of your favourite jazz bands!!

Savannah Jazz Band*Gambit Jazzmen*Sussex jazz Kings*New Orleans Heat

Tuba Skinny from New Orleans and Golden Eagle Jazz Band

Brolly Parade, Dancing and of course – *all that jazz!!*

COST Special Rate for U3A Group.....£175.00 per person half board

Single supplement £7.50 per person per night. (Limited number)

Upgrades available when bookings are made

To make a booking please contact either Katy Lansley or Helen Benwell, Mill Rytter Holiday Villager 02392 460044 e-mail katy.lansley@away-resorts.com

Please quote GROUP REFERENCE NUMBER 7057

The Holiday Village is near Portsmouth, Southsea, Fishbourne Roman Palace and Chichester.

Bob Jones (Reading U3A) Tel No 01189413889

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