

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

U3A Jazz Appreciation Network

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Newsletter 3/15

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G'Day All,

Summer's over; the kids are back at school and the blackberries are ripening in the hedgerows. Time for another steadfastly irregular newsletter.

First – Study Day 2015. I thought this year's was the best yet, a view confirmed by a number of attendees. We had about 160 – 170 this year. Having said that, I know that there are some of you who'd like a change. That number is much smaller than the number who'd like another day with Guildhall but as a democrat I must consider their point of view too. Another fact that concerns me is that the present Study Day takes place in London and its attendance is drawn largely (but not exclusively) from the South East. I am wary about straying too far – we tried to get a study day going in Leeds about 6 years ago, with the support of Leeds University, but had to pull the plug as, with a fortnight to go, we'd had 14 bookings. Another factor is me – I live in Somerset. I can get to London easily and cheaply enough on a motorway bus. I can't sub-contract the Day to someone else – I'm subject adviser and I'm accountable. However, I don't see why I shouldn't oversee a Day largely put together and run by someone else. I'd have to run that past National Office, however. So, is there anyone out there who'd like to have a go at organising a Study Day somewhere other than in the South East? Remember it has to be a learning experience – not just a jolly day out. That is why I am inclined to stay with Scott Stroman and GSMD – I doubt if we could improve on the learning element. But who knows? If anyone's got any ideas, get in touch.

Farewell Bob Jones.

Many of you, especially in Reading and the Thames Valley area, will know that Bob Jones left us early in the summer. Bob was my predecessor as national jazz adviser and was active in many areas of U3A. People will especially remember the jazz (and other) holidays that he organised. Bob – a Miles Davis fan – was always puzzled by the grip that New Orleans music had on U3A members. You may remember his

items in Third Age Matters about this. Personally, I am very grateful to Bob for his help and support when I took this job on and my thoughts are with his family.

### Who wants a band? Who wants a speaker ?

Sometimes U3A JAGs want a live band or a speaker instead of record-spinning. I have been approached by several people recently.

- North London U3A wanted a band and asked me if I could suggest anyone. I remembered being approached by Scott Willcox a while ago and suggested they try him. Scott runs a big band but N London only wanted a small group, so Scott sent a trio – Gary Willcox (his son), Tim Laphorn and Oli Hayhurst. Patricia Isaacs of N London U3A says “they played magnificently for us. Everyone loved the music. They come highly recommended.” Contact Scott at [scott.willcox@sky.com](mailto:scott.willcox@sky.com)
- Mike Forbes of Woking U3A has developed a couple of presentations that, he says, have gone down well –“Is improvisation in jazz less prevalent than we think” and “Can women play jazz?” Mike says that the presentations are not as provocative as the titles suggest . Mike would be happy to give his presentations to other JAGs in the area. Exes welcome if it’s a long distance. [jmike210@gmail.com](mailto:jmike210@gmail.com)
- Melvin Lyons has approached me. He is not a U3A member but has made jazz presentations to U3As – he mentions Causeway in Northern Ireland. He says he has ready-made presentations on Big Band Jazz; Electronic jazz; Euro Jazz; Jazz Flute; Miles Davis; Key milestones in the development of jazz and so on. As he’s not a U3A member, he’ll need payment - he mentions £30 plus travel costs. Contact [m.lyons@mail.com](mailto:m.lyons@mail.com)
- James Brady was in the trumpet section of Scott Stroman’s Guildhall Jazz Orchestra this year. He’s also got his own band and he’s played for Cambridge U3A (so he knows what we’re like). If you want a band, contact him. [james@jamesbradymusic.com](mailto:james@jamesbradymusic.com) or have a look at his website – [www.jamesbrday.com](http://www.jamesbrday.com).
- Alyn Shipton – presenter of BBC Radio Three’s Jazz Record Requests (thanks, by the way, to all of you who tuned in back in June to hear my little contribution to that programme) – and Alan Barnes, jazzman *par excellence* have developed a show called ‘What is Jazz’. (Alyn plays bass, by the way). They discuss how musicians improvise, how chord sequences work, and play pieces to demonstrate as well as talking about bits of jazz history. Usually it’s two sets of 45 minutes, with time in the second set for questions. Minimum daytime fee for both of them would be £200 plus exes. Area – Bristol to Norwich and Birmingham to Southampton (basically south-east). Contact Alan to discuss details via the contact form on his website – [www.alynshipton.com](http://www.alynshipton.com). This would be a good event for several U3As to organise together.
- Remember George Chisholm? Bob Sinfield has written a biography of the great jazz trombonist and entertainer. Bob is happy to talk to U3A JAGs about George and the book. Bob has a show on JazzFM and can be contacted at

[bob.sinfield@jazzfm.com](mailto:bob.sinfield@jazzfm.com) He will expect some (but not ruinous) recompense for a talk – get in touch to discuss details.

- Pete Furnish is leader of Teign U3A's jazz appreciation group. He is also bass player with John Shillito's band. Pete is happy to give talks to other south Devon U3As about the history of jazz. Get in touch with him at [peter.furnish@btinternet.com](mailto:peter.furnish@btinternet.com)

### Record Collections.

Rabbit Records will help you dispose of those mountains of vinyl. You can donate the collection to the National Jazz Archive, Rabbit Records will facilitate the sale and a proportion of the proceeds will go to the NJA. Get in touch with Scott Nicol – [sctnicol@gmail.com](mailto:sctnicol@gmail.com)

Are you looking for a **rare recording**? Member Alf Keiles is a member of the International Association of Jazz record Collectors and something of an authority on the classic jazz or 78 period. He has a vast collection of jazz recordings and if you are looking for something from that period, Alf will make a copy of it for you. No charge but he'd want the postage. Get in touch – [alfjazz@talktalk.net](mailto:alfjazz@talktalk.net)

### Jazz Courses.

You will remember that I've asked how many of you would be interested in a course for playing members. The answer is 'a few'. The jury's still out on that but Tweeddale member Mike Westwater has suggested that some playing members might be interested in the courses run at Higham Hall College, Cockermouth, Cumbria. I've been in touch with the organiser Len Phillips. There are three courses – two for players and one for arrangers. Len has clear and precise requirements for musical competence. He tells me that :

- The tutors are Alan Barnes. (Saxophone ,clarinet arranger) Mark Bassey. Arranger for NYJO, BBC big band. City Lit tutor etc....and himself :Len Phillips...Sax player, Big Band leader..now semi retired. (see web site <http://www.lenphillipsbigband.co.uk/>). Organiser and leader of Benny Goodman Tribute Band.
- The courses for 2016 are;

February 14 -18 Beginners Class;

April 27-1 May Arranging Class;

August 7-14 "Summer School

All applicants must either phone Len (079040 37647) or email [lenphillips@btinternet.com](mailto:lenphillips@btinternet.com)

Len asks for a phone call as a brief chat will determine whether the musical ability is what is required for the course. If you're interested, do get in touch.

### **Read any good books lately?**

I've come across three lately which may interest jazz lovers.

- I've already mentioned Bob Sinfield's talks about George Chisholm. You can buy Bob's book – entitled *George Chisholm – Gentleman of Jazz* online from Lulu.com ( It's a print on demand website) Cost £10.99
- Jazz Journal readers (I imagine there are many of you Out There) will remember Bert Whyatt – Bert was a JJ record reviewer for many years. He left us just over two years ago. His book – *Jazz; So much in my life* – has recently been published. It's an amiable ramble through Bert's life as a jazz reviewer & enthusiast, traveller and writer. You can get it from Amazon.
- Any Ted Heath fans out there? The Ted Heath Music Appreciation Society has published a book entitled *And the Melody Lingers On* by Graham Monkman. This will interest those who followed not just the Heath band but the British jazz scene generally in the forties and fifties. Cost £11 (in UK) incl p&p from THMAS, 7 Kingsdale Court, Stow Park Crescent, Newport NP20 4HS

And Finally

**Do remember if you follow up anything I mention that I am not recommending or endorsing it. I'm simply passing on info.**

If you enjoyed Scott Stroman's Guildhall Jazz Singers on Study Day, have you noticed that they are at the Crypt of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> November at 8 pm

Have you got [www.sandybrownjazz.co.uk](http://www.sandybrownjazz.co.uk) in your favourites ? You should have – it's a great on-line magazine for all jazz lovers

*Does anybody want any 78s ? A friend of mine has inherited boxfuls of them. Mostly swing era with quite a lot of 40s - 50s British jazz but nothing rare enough to interest specialist dealers. We'd hate to have to take them to the tip. I've got a list. Any interest? Get in touch with me.*

Do get in touch with me if you think that there is anything I can (try to) do. I'm playing with the idea of creating a U3A Jazz blog – British History have already got one, why shouldn't Jazz Appreciation. If I do, I hope you'll follow it.

Mike Whitaker  
National Jazz Adviser