

Minutes: NorvolJazz quarterly meeting, Saturday 30 April

Ribble Valley Jazz and Blues Festival.

Clitheroe United Reformed Church, Castle Gate, Clitheroe, BB7 1AZ. 10.30am-1pm



Present

- Geoff and Judith Waterhouse – Wakefield Jazz
- Gill Wilde Grimsby Jazz/Cleethorpes Jazz Festival
- Geoff Matthews and Tom Sykes- Southport Melodic Jazz
- Mike Gordon – Scarborough Jazz Festival
- Jean Watson and Steve Crocker (minutes) – Seven Jazz Leeds
- Paul Bream (chair) and Charlie McGovern-Jazz North East
- Paul Ellis (not pictured) and Sue Bradley - Ribble Valley Jazz Festival
- Kim Macari – Orpheus/Jazz at Heart Leeds

AGENDA ITEMS

Paul Bream (chair) welcomed people to the meeting

1 Minutes of last meeting at Newcastle Arts Centre 5 Dec. Amendments to record –Dave Parker and Carrie McCulloch should have been on the list of attendees; It was Joan and David who had raised the objections under item 4 (not Keith Barrett). **noted**

2 Matters arising: note 3-we had not seen the final version of the Jazz North business plan and the SWOT. **SC to chase up with Lesley Jackson** at Jazz North

3. Apologies –Ian Darrington (Wigan JF), Micheal Swedlow (LiverpoolJazz), members from the Newcastle Jazz Co-op (organising anniversary party), Marsden Jazz (last minute bid writing) Neil Campbell (Capstone) Neil Hughes (Cinnammon Club) Jez Matthews (Jazz at Lescar, Sheffield Jazz – at Cheltenham!). Also our chair Chris DeSaram (Wakefield JC) who was laid up at home after and operation. **NorvolJazz sent our regards to Chris to wish him a speedy recovery**

4 Catch Up - Round Table.

Sue Bradley (Trustee) and Paul Ellis (Trustee and jazz programmer)- Ribble Valley Jazz Festival/Club. Sue and Paul gave a bit of background to the Ribble Valley Festival. Run by jazz collective, responsibilities were split between members and handled jointly by the volunteers. Festival had four themes jazz lovers gigs, music rebels, festival fringe and family friendly gigs. Many people and businesses in Clitheroe involved. Community events organised with Lancaster University and University of Central Lancashire. Ribble Valley Jazz Club had one event per month. Ribble Valley Big band formed.

Gill Wilde - Grimsby Jazz/Cleethorpes Jazz Festival – Gill was very enthused about the piece commissioned by Grimsby jazz as a joint venture with Alan Barnes, guitarist Pat McCarthy and poet Josie-Anne Gray bringing together brand new music and poetry to tell the tale of the vibrant, dark and dangerous history of Grimsby's fishing trade. . It would be performed on the final day of the Cleethorpes Jazz Festival. Gill would like to see it toured around other venues, coastal or otherwise

Kim Macari - Jazz at Heart Leeds – “doing fine”, gigs summer school and workshops doing well

Jean Watson and Steve Crocker – Seven Jazz Leeds – Very pleased about their Parliamentary Jazz best venue award 2016 and pleased that Jamil Sheriff Leeds College of Music nominated for jazz educator. Starting a new “Village Jazz Festival” 2-4 Sept this year as a spin off from the Chapel Allerton Arts Festival – jazz, blues, salsa, and spoken word all featured. Held “emerging artists” events with LCoM and this year Bradford JATP also involved – asked if more clubs could take these young bands next year May 2017.

Mike Gordon – Scarborough Jazz and Scarborough Jazz Festival – advance tickets for festival had gone exceptionally well this year – 400 weekend tickets sold. Scarborough Jazz Club were doing well at the Cask – landlord providing some funding. A rival Yorkshire Coast Festival including lots of jazz had just been cancelled apparently.

Geoff Matthews and Tom Sykes- Southport Melodic Jazz. Having their 25th anniversary Jun 19th. Had also run 12 winter weekend festivals now. Geoff Matthews standing aside – Neil Hughes taking over festival and Tom Sykes (and a “more youthful” committee!) taking over at Southport Jazz club. The club had some outreach gigs at Atkinson theatre. Younger bands from North West were to be featured – using Payf. GM was still running jazz events however – especially for the local U3A

Geoff and Judith Waterhouse – Wakefield Jazz. Doing OK this year. Had used a lot of Northern Line artists – financially beneficial. Their 1000th gig held in April. Scheme to introduce new people to jazz “Wakefield Jazz Virgins”. Booking Big Bands had been highly successful – have had three “on the bounce”.

Paul Bream -Jazz North East Newcastle. 50th anniversary celebration next year. JNE had programmed the GIJF concourse bands this year. Aiming to put on jazz at other festivals in Newcastle eg NARK and GEMARTS (local Asian cultural fest). Had worked with Irish Cultural Festival too but Louis Stewart link had fallen through unfortunately. New Big Band planned and new Newcastle Jazz Festival next year – planned also with young contemporary British bands.

5. NorvoJazz finances – GM presented the current position. We were sound and afloat!

6. NorvoJazz/Orpheus partnership international jazz touring

Kim Macari from Orpheus and Heart Jazz introduced the item. New Orpheus website for project set up in March with new interviews and artists content. CD competition to help populate mailing list.

Ingrid Jensen Quartet to start at end of May. 15 day tour of Norvol clubs + a London date with Engines orchestra and a workshop with NYJO. Two other tours (trios – Ellery Eskelin and Seamus Blake) also organised. PR wise flyers and posters produced. Feature in Big Issue, York Evening News, Wakefield Express. Underspend in budget at present, so could be some refunds to clubs involved.

Asked clubs for income and sales figures so as to register tour income. Sharing of social media very vital for the Orpheus tour promotion – please share it!

Will announce the second tour directly after this first one finishes.

Kim then asked NorvolJazz to **endorse a joint bid with Orpheus for a further larger Norvol Jazz international touring scheme in 2017-18** with the application to be written in August 2016 incorporating funding for network support, attending Jazz Ahead etc). **This was agreed unanimously**

Kim was thanked for all her hard work on the international jazz touring programme

7. Great Jazz Festivals in North of England

NorvolJazz network had produced a **comprehensive leaflet** highlighting the seventeen jazz festivals that took place every year in the North of England. This was in part to change attitudes elsewhere – to help break the North South divide that existed in knowledge and coverage of jazz. Tony Jennings JCB praised for the design and artwork praised 1000 copies of the leaflet to each contributing festival. Leaflet would not date as only months used not exact dates of festivals. As no sponsorship from Jazz North forthcoming, the print run had been halved to 20,000. Cost was £1958 or which £1700 contribution had been from festivals. Norvol clubs and festivals were asked to promote it and to give some to every band that played. Copies to be sent to Serious, Jazz Promotion Network and Jazzwise - asked to review the festivals. **SC to arrange**

Those present **thanked Steve Crocker and Geoff Matthews for their work**. It had been an entirely successful promotion that had given the lie to those naysayers, and one that had showed what Norvol network could do when it acted collectively.

8. Update 1 - Jazz Promotion Network. Tom Sykes gave an update of what had happened at the national Jazz Promotion network AGM in April in Birmingham. They had elected a new committee of nine members. Steve Crocker from Norvoljazz had resigned from the board, but Barney Stephenson (Marsden Festival) had now joined so there would still be someone from Norvoljazz involved. JPN had achieved charitable status and now had around 80 members UK wide. The new website and chat forums were on line. JPN had attended Jazzahead in Bremen. Nod Knowles from JPN was developing a showcasing scheme for Dutch jazz artists. Funding – JPN didn't have much in the bank at present so couldn't do a lot of development projects. So far their JPN bids for funding had been unsuccessful. **Noted**

8. Update 2 PRSF funding. PRSF were unlikely to re instate the former **Jazz Promoters Fund**, used in the past by many Norvoljazz promoters to help develop their programmes. PRSF have a preference for promoters to apply to their separate PRSF **Open Fund**. They will have to meet the three criteria, excellence in the music, enabling the UK's most talented musicians to reach their potential and inspiring audiences. The next deadline is **6th June**. They are keen to know from promoters if there are barriers to jazz promoters applying to the Open Fund. They have also developed what is called the **Flash Fund**. This is for small items such as piano hire, insurance or legal fees. Application is by video on which four questions have to be answered. The application is turned round rapidly in two days (the scheme doesn't yet seem to be on their website nb). **Noted**

9. Norvol Jazz and Arts Council National Portfolio funding

Steve Crocker introduced this item. There were currently 663 arts organisations in England receiving a total of 1 £billion Arts Council National Portfolio (NPO) funding each year. Did NorvolJazz want to be one of them in the next funding round (April 2018)? In jazz terms there were a number of jazz NPO's in the north already – Jazz North, Inner City Music in Manchester (Band on the Wall, who put on some jazz events), Manchester Jazz Festival, J-Night (who promote the Hull Jazz Festival) and the Sage Gateshead who promote the Gateshead International Jazz Festival.

Advantages – Novoljazz had a **good track record** of successful GFA bids with the Arts Council now via two GFA grants - the Promoter Development Training and the International Jazz Touring schemes. It had developed “Be Jazz Promoter events”, produced a marketing leaflet for all the Northern Jazz Festivals, and helped develop tours and opportunities for emerging jazz artists via co-operation between promoters. There were now 30 plus members of the network (mainly voluntary but some publically funded organisations and NPO's as well) so it truly represented the jazz promoters of the North). It had showed its ambition to help promoters with audience development and supporting young musicians and northern bands and to develop a larger international touring scheme. This ambition could be supported by more formal structures and two years solid funding which would enable us to pay people for development work. EMJAZZ network (East Midlands jazz) who were an NPO had shown this was entirely feasible.

Disadvantages – it would be an extra layer of bureaucracy and very resource intensive. Would our voluntary time (already stretched) be able to stand it? Other Norvol members were already in discussions about teaming up with their local NPO's – that would complicate matters.

In general the feeling was wary of making this new step – but rather to keep developing a track record of successful GFA bids and links with existing NPO's. Could Kim Macari/Orpheus's new bid provide the funding we needed anyway as previous Arts Council bids had in the past?

Actions Steve Crocker/Gill Wilde to speak to Stuart Isaacs (EMJAZZ paid staff) about a possible joint NPO bid – with a view to bringing any proposal to our next meeting in September

10. AOB – about distributing the festival leaflet boxes!

11. Next NorvolJazz network meeting and AGM: Saturday morning 10 for 10.30am at Scarborough Jazz Festival 24 September (thanks to Mike Gordon – please note in your diaries!)

The Chair then thanked Ribble Valley Jazz and Blues Festival (especially Su Bradley, Paul Ellis, Geoffrey Jackson and Sue Lightbown and for their hospitality and the members of Clitheroe United Reformed Church for providing lunch etc.

Meeting Closed 1pm for lunch

NorvolJazz members then went on to organise the **Ribble Valley Festival Jazz Jam** in the Clitheroe United Reformed Church 2-4pm Mike Gordon on piano, Steve Crocker bass, and Steve Mullarky drums provided the rhythm section, Jeam Watson (vocals and MC), Tom Sykes (violin). A good time was had by all and thanks to Arun Gosh came and played clarinet and helped - it all work brilliantly