

Norvol Jazz – the independent jazz promoter network for the North

Quarterly Meeting Autumn Winter 2015 Southport Winter Weekend Sat 7 Feb 2015 11.00am-1.30pm

Norvol members present

- Paul Bream Norvol - Jazz North East (NE rep on Norvol admin group) chair
- Geoff Matthews -Norvol Treasurer and Southport Melodic Jazz
- Steve Crocker- Norvol Secretary and Seven Jazz Leeds
- Gill Wilde -Grimsby Jazz/Cleethorpes Jazz Festival
- Mike Gordon - Scarborough Jazz/Scarborough Jazz Festival
- Jez Matthews - Sheffield Jazz/Jazz at the Lescar
- Kim Macari – HEART Leeds
- Jean Watson - Seven Jazz Leeds
- Michael Swerdlow and Victor Greenberg Liverpool Jazz
- Tom Sykes Southport Melodic Jazz
- Geoff Jackson – Ribble Valley Jazz and Blues
- Peter Woodman, John Quail and Barney Stephenson – Marsden Jazz Festival
- Emma Lloyd Atkinson Centre Southport

Apologies

- Chris de Saram- Wakefield Jazz
- Steve Bootland, Bradford JATP
- Felicity Barton Huddersfield Jazz
- Neil Campbell – Liverpool Jazz Festival
- Mary Haynes – Wigan Jazz

ITEM

Item 1 Welcome and introduction

Paul Bream (acting chair in absence of CdS) welcomed people to the meeting. He asked to be put on record our sadness about the recent death of **Dave Hatfield** “Fusebox” organiser and a leading light in the former Leeds Jazz organisation who had died at the end of January. He congratulated Norvol member and Scarborough Jazz organiser **Mike Gordon** for his nomination under “Services to Jazz” section in the current Parliamentary Jazz Awards 2015. Finally he thanked **Geoff Matthews** and Southport Melodic Jazz for their hospitality in hosting this Norvoljazz network

Item 2 Minutes from previous meeting at Scarborough 27 Sept 2014 10.30am- 1.30pm Agreed as true record – proposed Gill Wilde seconded Jean Watson.

Matter Arising - there had been no support to the proposal made at the previous meeting for a tie up of NorvolJazz with East Midlands Jazz for a future RFO bid. Other matters in minutes were on the agenda

Item 3 - Highs and lows of 2014

Heart in Leeds. "Audience numbers rising, education programme doing well".

Sheffield Jazz/Jazz at Lescar "Audience number at the Lescar in Sheffield were up. Contemporary bands were attracting good audiences. Issue of musicians pay (fixed fee vs door money). GoGo Penguin one highlight. Sheffield Jazz were also doing OK – new University gigs going well eg Polar Bear 200+ audience and different people. Crucible Studio was a successful venue for bigger jazz gigs - helping to underwrite SJ's regular Millennium Hall concerts".

Liverpool Jazz – not a promoter but a website run to help promote jazz in Liverpool. Offered help to people like Capstone, Atkinson, Southport, Wigan. Monthly radio programme podcast. Data base of bands, agency role for people wanting bands.

Ribble Valley J and B Festival going well -now a charitable company – had shared ideas with Grassington and Marsden Festivals. Friday lunchtime weekly and monthly bigger gigs at Clitheroe.

Scarborough JF/Club– 30th anniversary last year. Every Wed club night. Sitting in encouraged. Festival – in 2015 decided not to go for cross genre approach to attract audiences – had put off jazz fans more!

Marsden Jazz Festival "23rd year this year successful recent years meant there was some money in bank. Mechanics Hall Family Friendly events had worked "I have a duck who can roar" Wide mixture or mainstream and of more contemporary bands Commissioned pieces a success eg Simon Fell's piece to be broadcast on Jazz on Three soon. Ben Crosland/John Etheridge commission in 2015. Core funding reduced due to LA cuts – going for professional fundraiser to fill gap."

Grimsby/Cleethorpes JF. "Festival in profit (just). Club gigs monthly. Funding locally via Town Council non existant. New focus on schools and workshops a success and pleased to have given start to bands like Jam Experiment. Hard work – need more help"

Southport Jazz Festival at the Atkinson. Regular monthly events with North West artists. Jazz Fest in May. Successful ACE bid – willing to share this with Kim and Norvol for our bid. Extensive social media at Atkinson (20k per month hits on Website). Challenging LA funding situation.

Seven Jazz Leeds "More young people/young musicians coming to gigs – gifted tickets approach, Financially stable, still 80 gigs per year + workshops and jazz choir. Second smaller venue Inkwell - a Mental Health Arts Charity – had growing audiences. Le Grand Depart Yorkshire Jazz Showcase a success. Chapel Allerton Fest jazz day very popular. Decided not to promote a weekend festival in Leeds 2015 – no finance,so planning one in Chapel Allerton village in May 2016."

Southport MJ/Winter Weekend Festival "A successful 2015 winter weekend festival– going 11years now. Club monthly gigs – club going 25 years. Winters Weekend next year was going ahead.. Trying to find some new people to take it forward. "

Jazz NE at Newcastle"50 years old this year! Missionary zeal in programming of more contemporary bands, not part of the heritage industry! Teetering on the edge of financial collapse (as usual). New PRS funded "women in jazz" series. New venues including Newcastle University. Want to re-start Voice of North Jazz Orchestra"

Item 3 NorVol Website and Blog

People had had difficulty of uploading their gigs onto the www.norvoljazz.org gig listing page. Discussion about responsive websites, direct ticketing, wordpress sites. Blog going well – increasing number of hits. SC asked for people to keep sending updates and interesting stories to him for Northern Jazz Live blog. He asked people to put direct links to the blog and the website from their own media. Liverpool Jazz were to do this to their website. People thanked GM for the smart new Norvol Jazz banner!

Action – SC spoke to Richard Gentle webmaster who has now put a simple login button and instructions on www.norvoljazz.org front page.

Item 4 Jazz Promotion Network

SC updated the meeting as to the JPN bid for ACE touring grant for autumn 2015- spring 2017 with 10 tours in total over two years. A second new bid for International Music Showcasing had been submitted – here there were likely to be four successful bids to ACE, hence only one (if that) for jazz. Mar 3rd 2015 would be the date JPN heard about the result of the touring grant bid. The touring grant bid also including funding for the next JPN national festival – scheduled to be held in Manchester Jazz Festival (venue and date to be arranged – it would be sometime during the first week in August 2015).

JPN had offered to take up the issue of the PRSF jazz promoter awards. Many clubs in the Norvol Network had benefited from this fund, but with Jazz Services no longer able to administer it JPN had offered to talk to PRSF (Vanessa Reed) about setting up a mechanism for dispersing the funds to appropriate clubs with a programme of contemporary UK jazz music. It may be that in the longer term Jazz Services would continue to run the fund but with their staff changes (John Norbury Lyons and Ann Rigg were both leaving and the new project director, [Heulwen Phillips](#) was fresh in post) they were in no position to do this at present . It was suggested we invite Heulwen Phillips to a future NorvolJazzNetwork meeting.

Action – Norvol Network agreed support the two JPN bids and the JPN action over PRSF promoter awards.

Item 5 Norvol International / National touring project.

Kim Macari circulated the draft Norvol touring proposal that NORVOL Jazz and Apollo Jazz Network form a partnership to develop and maintain a programme of national and international jazz artists and ensembles over the course of 2-3 years. High-profile international artists (with an emphasis – but not exclusively - on North America) will be paired with Northern/UK artists and undertake tours predominantly in the Northern region. Each tour would take place over a 10-day period. The aim would be 5 tours and to work each tour would have to commit to 3 venues taking it. There would also be a Scotland date and a London date.

The three year activity was to also include a significant portion of time to focus on collecting and analysing data from NORVOL members about their individual activities in order to produce a comprehensive picture of voluntary jazz promotion in the North of England and develop a system of data collection which can be used by NORVOL beyond the timeframe of the funded activity.

The proposal followed on from the first Norvol GfA successful bid to support club development. This would be a bid for large scale ACE touring funding – overall budget £2-300k.. Promoters would get a discounted price. Not every venue would pay the same price – there would be flexibility. Kim proposed a £100 per club deposit to buy in and get first call to the gigs on offer. Other clubs could bid as well but without the priority. 50% of the bands proposed would be from by Appolo, 50% by the clubs. Each artist would receive a standard sum per tour. Tours would be 10 days approx. The aim would be to widen people’s views of what was possible in jazz.

Marsden Jazz Festival expressed an interest in linking up with their “New Stream” event in November.

The Norvol Working group would next meet at Queens Hotel Leeds on Mon 17 Feb 6pm to discuss of the bid. Emma Lloyd offered to share the content of their successful £1m ACE funding bid

Action – Norvol Network agreed support the Norvol International / National touring proposal and asked the Norvol sub group to work up a bid to ACE for funding

Item 6 Finance

NorvolJazz network had a balance of £4378, not including the cost of Southport meeting. Membership was currently 23. SC asked if anyone wanted support for travel and hotels for this event to see GM

Action –noted

Item 7 AOB: None.

Item 8: Date and place of next meeting:

Gateshead International Jazz Festival at the Sage - Sat 11 April 10.30 for 11am -1.30pm

Ros Rigby at the Sage has also suggested we might like to attend a seminar on the Friday called **Take the Green Train** which is a Europe Jazz Network project looking at issues around environmental sustainability in music (including jazz) from 11 am – 5 pm, which is free, with some really interesting speakers.

Suggestions for forward planning NorvolJazz network dates (tbc)

- Sat June 27 – part of Cleethorpes Jazz Festival?
- Sat 19 Sept – part of Lancaster Jazz Festival? –(incl AGM) – idea we run a “Meet the promoters” session for bands and musicians to meet us

Meeting finished at 1.30pm

SC/13/2/14