



The Foot Tappers News

December 2011 – January 2012



**Happier Times : An Adamant March circa 1974
Tom with Simon Palser and Mike Pearce on drums**



Tom Rosser 1929 - 2011

Editorial	e-mail :- pjscardiff@btinternet.com Tel :- 029 20625639
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Welcome to the December edition of the Foot Tappers

Since the last issue of the Foot Tappers was issued we have to report the sudden death of one of our former Presidents, Tom Rosser. Tom seems to have been on the Cardiff scene for ages and I first met him when he played drums for the Mike Harries Band at No 7 High Street back in the late 50's. I have include the eulogy, by John Scantlebury, at Toms' funeral service, which showed the affection and respect he was held in by his contemporary musicians. Tom was President of the PJS in the mid 90's, a position he held with pride. Probably from a PJS viewpoint he is probably best remembered for his "Tom's Happy Pals" a band where he would select the members – His first priority was to get Jayne Gregory on bass and then think about the rest.; they were always good sessions. His long association with the Adamant Marching Band, particularly in Aberaeron endeared him to the wider jazz fraternity. We extend to Sylvia our heartfelt sympathy.

It's renewal time again for your subscriptions and we are again keeping it at £5.00 So you can help by sending your renewal to Alun Jones, 12 Heol Cattwg, Whitchurch, Cardiff CF14 1JQ. Your subscriptions are our only source of income, apart from the weekly help from Café Jazz; so to help keep us going it would be appreciated if you could renew promptly.

You can also help in another way and that is to have the FT delivered by email – this will save us the postage, which I am told is going to increase in April by about 10%. All you need do is send me an email to pjscardiff@btinternet.com and I will add you to our mailing list.

On the website you can see loads of photographs, mostly taken by Paul Dunleavy, of artists that have appeared at Café Jazz and elsewhere and also archived copies of the FT going back several years.

We are doing our best to keep the admission price at Café Jazz, to £3.50 for members and will do so for as long as we can, but reserve the option of increasing it to say £4 if the situation arises. So keep coming along, and support us in keeping our style of music alive in the city. We will be having a two week break at Christmas, resuming on 10th January with local quartets for January and February – lets hope the weather will be better than last year. So it remains to me, to wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Swinging New Year.

Tom Rosser

1929 - 2011

HE was never plain old Tom - often, as with many notable musicians and artists, he was fondly called simply by his surname, so it was just Rosser. At other times he could be Uncle Tom or perhaps Captain Tom, and I would add another title...Gentleman Tom.

Tom Rosser was certainly all these things. Avuncular, most definitely, to so many young aspiring jazzers, quite a few of whom are, in their more mature form, shall I say, here to pay tribute to him today.

Anyone keeping an eye on Facebook, Twitter or old-fashioned e-mail these last two weeks will have seen the deep regard in which Tom was held, and read the messages of appreciation for his encouragement and advice. The thoughts of drummers such as Simon Palser, Clarence Nugent, Mike Pearce and, from the Adamant New Orleans Parade Band, Mike Kennedy I found especially moving. Indeed, Tom was very much a father figure for generation after generation of up-and-coming musicians, a trait which, incidentally, which made him such a perfect choice to be President of the Preservation Jazz Society, a role of which he was very proud.

Then there was Captain Tom, a title earned from his years at the Gourock Rope Works and the Reardon-Smith shipping line. It was while he was at Gourock that Tom started his little cottage industry of producing bags and cases for musicians from off-cuts of canvas. Initially, I confess, it was for his own use (and Alun Jones recalls how all-embracing these bags were and how back-breakingly heavy! Tom himself called them Hernia Bags) but soon everyone wanted one and the Cardiff jazz scene became awash with enough canvas to keep the "Mary Rose" in full sail.

And then it was on to Reardon-Smith where Tom was charged with dispatching people and objects all around the world. The capacity for things going horribly wrong was immense but Tom took it all in his stride, chuckling as he recalled the day's trials, tribulations and mishaps when we all met up with the Mike Harries band in the evening.

It's that happy laid-back approach to life, that chuckle, that is my fondest memory of Tom Rosser, the ready lop-sided smile usually accompanied by a satisfied pull on his trusty pipe.

So there he sat, at the back of the band, producing a cloud of smoke that would have done a Mississippi riverboat proud, and effortlessly laying down a drive, in combination with the likes of Howell Bines, Lynn Saunders, Eddie Williams, Kevin and John Couch, that made our jobs in the front line so easy and which contributed in no small way to the praise Ken Colyer lauded on the band in an interview.

Nothing was too much trouble for Tom, no-one too much of a burden to spend time with. All of which made him Gentleman Tom in my book. There were other contributions to the music scene along the way - among them Tom's Happy Pals and his coming up with the name Midnight Special for another musical creation. Everyone here will have their own special memory of the man.

But above all of this stood Tom Rosser's greatest accomplishment - his partnership with his adored Sylvia. It was always Rosser and Sylvia from the start of time, it seemed, and they were always so wonderfully loving and comfortable with each other. Having a jazzier as

a husband is not the easiest of lives and Tom was so fortunate to have found her. I'm sure Sylvia would say she was lucky, too. Our hearts are with you today, Sylvia, and the whole jazz community will always be there for you.

Which brings me to a final thought. I was at Willingham Jazz Club in Cambridgeshire at the weekend and took the opportunity to say a few words about Tom on the microphone as a precursor to playing a very heartfelt Closer Walk With Thee. I observed that they would never have heard of Tom Rosser but that they would certainly know him. He was one of them, a New Orleans jazz lover. He was family. And the audience in this jazz club on the other side of the country stood and applauded Tom for a minute.

I think we can do no less today. Please stand and let's hear it one more time for Tom Rosser, the most-loved and loving of husbands and the dearest of friends...

John Scantlebury October 7, 2011



I mentioned in the last issue that the Jazz at the Mumbles Conservative Club had ceased – well I was wrong, and was swiftly corrected by Mark Tattersal when I saw him at a concert in Upton upon Severn. They now run bi monthly sessions with the Memphis 7 doing the first Thursday of the month. Gypsy Jazz are there on the 15th Dec and a Memphis Party Night on the 23rd, So if you are in the Swansea area drop in and support the club.

Our Programme

We start 2012 with Phil Wall's Jazz Cardinals on the 10th Jan., followed by New Orleans Hula on the 17th. John Scantlebury's guests 24th, will be Rachel Hayward Bjo /gtr Mike Gale bass and Dave Smith on cornet. Completing the month will be John Davies with his Trio, Paul Munnery, Richard Gibbon and Richard West. February starts off with the return of Ron King's Band; The Wessex New Orleans Band on the 14th with Norman Thatcher's Ragtime Band on the 21st and Dave Smith Quartet completing the month on the 28th Feb.

There have been many requests to see the Icon Jazz Band again. Fortunately Gwyn Lewis is in the country in March so we have arranged an "Icon Revisited" on the 20th March. So make a note in your diaries.

I hope the Icon Reunion goes as well as the "Riverside Remembered" went. It was so nice to see many of the bands supporters from the past. Hopefully they will come and see the Icon. Our photos, this time, are from the Riverside session – If you want to see more, then look on the website – click "Photo Gallery"



Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year

Riverside Remembered



Sarah Thatcher, Mike Pearce, Pete Locke, Norman Thatcher, Alun Jones, Mike Gale



Alun



Pete

Visit the PJS Website :- www.pjscardiff.co.uk



Mike Pearce



Mike Gale



Sarah



John

Photographs © Paul Dunleavy



Sunday

Ian Phillips Jazz Paraders	The Wig & Pen - Newport	8:30 – 10:30
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Tuesday

The Preservation Jazz Society	Café Jazz The Sandringham Hotel St Mary St. Cardiff	8:30 – 11:00
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Wednesday

Various Bands	St. James's Club – Uplands Swansea	8:30 – 11:00
Keith Little Band	The Windsor Hotel - Penarth	21/12 – 4/1
Liberty Street	The Windsor Hotel - Penarth	14/12 – 28/12 11/1

Thursdays

Memphis Seven	Mumbles Conservative Club	23rd Dec
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Fridays

The Camelia Band	Victoria Inn, 179 Caerleon Rd. Newport	3pm – 6pm
Various Band	Torfaen Jazz Society The Open Hearth - Sebastapol	Check www.torfaenjazz.org.uk

Saturdays

Various Bands	Old Comrades – Pontypool	Details 01495 762504
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There are more photographs on the website of the artists that appear at Café Jazz just click "Photo Gallery"

Photographs © Paul Dunleavy



PJS GIG LIST



December

13 Phil Wall's Jazz Cardinals
20 The Wessex New Orleans Band
27 No Jazz Tonight

January

3 No Jazz Tonight
10 Phil Wall's Jazz Cardinals
17 New Orleans Hula
24 John Scantlebury Quartet

February

7 Ron King's Band
14 The Wessex New Orleans Band
21 Norman Thatcher's Ragtime Band
28 The Dave Smith Four

March

6 Norman Thatcher with Mike Denham (piano)

All January & February dates subject to late alteration
Please check Website

Or send an e-mail to :- pjscardiff@btinternet.com
and go on our e-mail list

Café Jazz - The Sandringham Hotel, St. Mary Street, Cardiff
Admission - unless otherwise stated Specials £4 / £5 (Students £2)
P.J.S Members & Concessions £3.50, Non Members £4.00, Students £2.00

The PJS Acknowledge assistance from Dutton Hotels