

Obituary
Derek Newton
1937-2012

Derek was bass player with the Liberty Street Jazz Band for some 10 years until he had to give up for health reasons. He played both string bass and sousaphone and was an extremely devoted, reliable and enthusiastic member of the band.



He was born in the Greater Manchester area and started working life as a telephone engineer with the GPO. He did national service with the RAF, playing in the RAF band but soon finding his true love was jazz. He played with a number of jazz bands around Manchester starting with the South Side Stompers and the Zenith Six but also being involved in groups that backed big visiting names such as Matt Monroe. He was a regular player at the Cavern Club in Liverpool during this period.

He was therefore a very experienced bass player by the time his day job brought him to South Wales where he ended up as a BT executive. After retirement in 1991 he returned to music, playing tuba with the City of Swansea Concert Band and later discovering the Liberty Street Band which was in need of a bass player at the time. He proved to be a very vigorous and inventive player and a great strength in the rhythm section.

He died on 19 September after a long battle with sclerosis of the lungs leaving behind his wife Christine, his three children and four grand daughters. We miss his ever reliable presence in the band and his cheery sense of humour.

John Davies 2nd October 2012