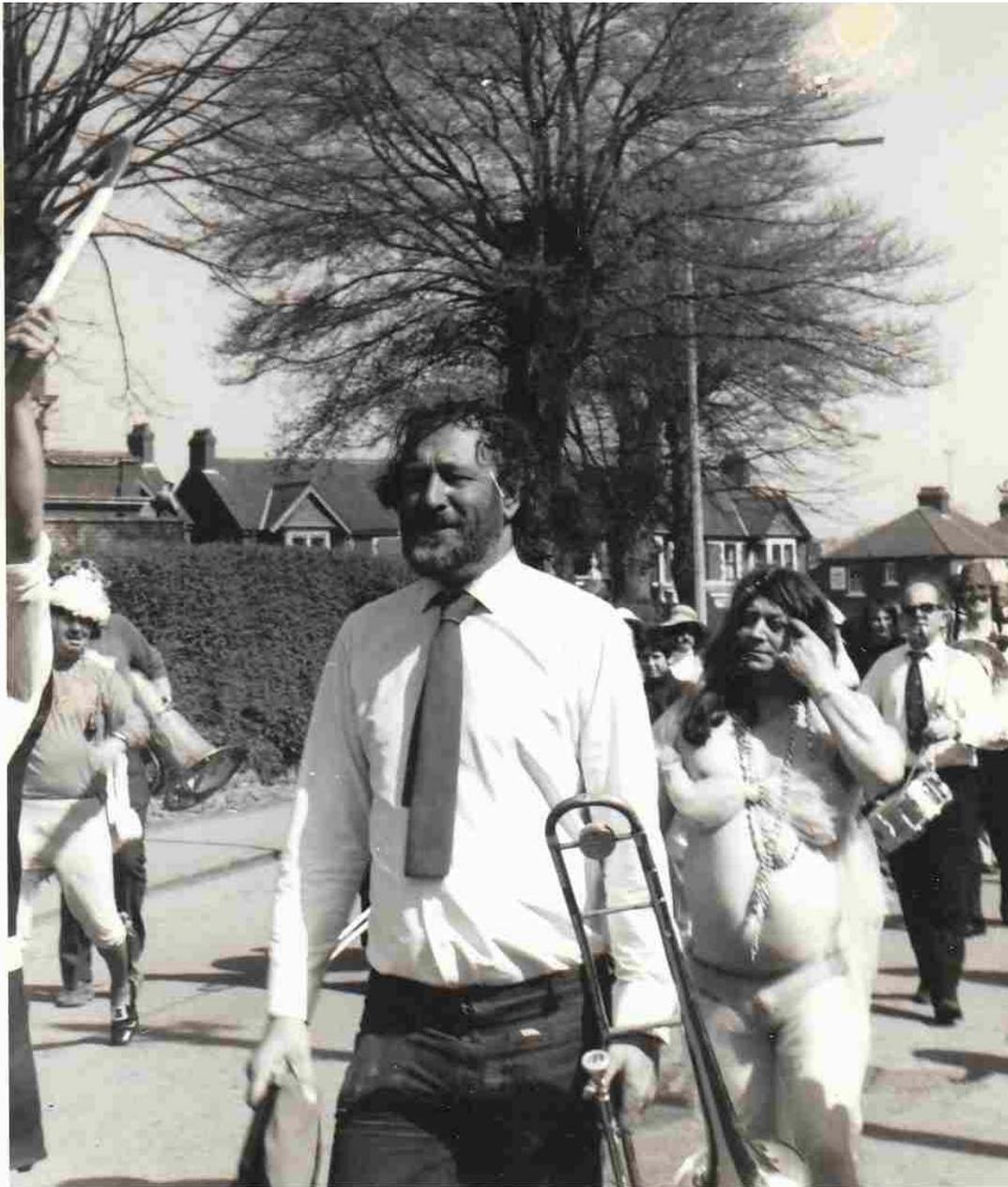




The Foot Tappers News

Sept – October 2018



**Mike Harries. A Tribute
The Early Years**

Café JAZZ

2nd October 2018



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Mike Harries Band

We all assume that Mike Harries played trombone but he started in 1944 on clarinet switching to the trombone in the early 50's. Mike at the time was playing in the Philharmonic. Not famous at the time was one Acker Bilk whom Mike hired for £2.14s 6d a week. The Philharmonic lasted until 1956. Mike's band had become very popular at the colleges around Cardiff and they wanted a residency and it was in the late 50's that the band moved into No.7 High Street which was to be their home for the next few years.

Due to the popularity of the Band you had to Queue to get in. the queue often stretching from No 7 to the Old Arcade, Once in, the hot steamy cellar, that was, to the more gentle folk, the Mavis June School of Dancing, but to jazz lovers, it was their weekly "fix"; and believe it or believe it not the place was DRY - you had to dash to the "Old A" for a few quick pints in the interval then back to the cellar for more jazz. Mike also played at Stacey Road and later moved to the Tredegar Arms (The Jazz Attic) where they held sessions in the upstairs room with candle lit tables.

Perhaps the most memorable and exciting times were when the Band moved to the Estonian Club in Charles Street. Here the band played on a balcony overlooking the dance floor – one of the first times I played “professionally” when I ‘depped’ for John Scantlebury – I think I got paid 30/- a fortune in those days One of the funniest things that happened there was with pianist Howell Bines, he always tapped, maybe a better word would be stamped his foot whilst playing, that one of the light bulbs decided to escape and smashed on the floor below

The most memorable event was in 1964 when Thomas Kid Valentine and Emmanuel Paul, both veteran New Orleans musicians came to play in Cardiff. A Marching Band was formed and we marched the length of Charles Street to welcome them. Howells' wife, Avril, was carrying the banner and Manny Paul said to her during the interval – I've had loads of women do things for me but you are the first to carry a banner.

Other US musicians came over and each time we had trouble with the Musicians Union Rep who objected that we were putting his members out of work – at that time there was no reciprocal arrangement for US musicians to visit the UK, and vice versa, as there is today – so we all got blacklisted – no real problem as we were not union members at the time. Louis Nelson, a highly respected trombonist came over and the MU did their best to ban the concert. To overcome this we went in as Howell's Happy Pals and had a good night. Another incident occurred when Harold

Dejan – the leader of the Olympia Band from the US came over – If you remember the James Bond film “Live & Let Die” the opening part of the film is set in New Orleans with a funeral parade, well that was Harold’s Marching Band. To overcome the union Harold came on holiday to the UK.

Perhaps the most memorable occasion was the visit of clarinettist George Lewis – my idol and that of most New Orleans musicians - Again he had a musical reception with the architecture of Charles Street reminding George of his home in New Orleans.

I think, in that period Mike did more in promoting live New Orleans music to Cardiff than any other person has since.

I think I have used the phrase “the most memorable occasion ...3 or 4 times.” They were all memorable, they were such exciting times.

Then came the Marching Band, the idea was conceived in No.7 where a few of us got together to practice marching, This was the Mike Harries Marching Band, which changed it’s name to Adamant sometime later – probably one of the most famous in the UK which appeared on numerous occasions in Cardiff collecting for charity and for the Students Rag Parade and many other events, These occurred many time over the 70’s 60’s and 90’s. There were many appearances in The Bay, in the 90’s for the Jazz Festivals and other occasions later. The Band is still in existence but not so busy. It is playing in the Marching Band that most people would associate with Mike and it was his Charisma and pure enthusiasm which overflowed which they, I and others owe him a great deal of gratitude for their introduction to his style of jazz,

Mike appeared at Chapter for many years and many line-ups then moved to the FBI where they were the house band. And then The Root Doctors That’s another story



Happier times – Aberaeron a few years ago



Chris Hodgkins, Mike Palsler,
Mike Stamp and Eddie Williams



circa 1960's Rag Parade

If you have any pictures of Mike's Band or the Adamant and you would like them displayed on our website please send them to :- pjscardiff@btinternet



One of the many line-ups of the MHJB. circa
L-R John Scantlebury, John Hummerstone, Mike Harries back row Eddie Williams

Photograph ; - Acknowledgment Western Mail & Echo

“Old Boy Stompers”

From Stockholm, Sweden

(photo A Karlérus/B.Holm.)



This band was formed in 2011 and has gained a reputation for playing “Old Style Jazz” in a driving, entertaining fashion. The repertoire being taken from 20’s classic jazz, 30’s small bands, 40’s revivalist and latter day songs with a good melody line. Members of the band playing here today for you are:-

Kaj Sifvert trombone. A vastly experienced musician playing throughout Europe since the 1950’s. Former member of “The Swedish Classic Jazz Kings” led by Bent Persson. Much in demand on the Stockholm jazz scene.

Classe Sterner soprano saxophone. Exciting player who has his own style. Has played in top class bands since the 1950’s. Powers us along as he does his sports cars. A qualified racing driver and steward. Another in demand player.

Tomas Ekström bass. Ever smiling personality. Started off in the 1960’s with the Carnegie Jazz Band after getting into the music via skiffle and a tea chest bass. Also a member of Jens “Jesse” Lindgren’s New Orleans Band.

Boa Carlman banjo and vocals. Another member of the band who started by playing skiffle. Has been playing since the 1960’s taking a break of forty years to concentrate on family and business. A regular visitor and guest musician in New Orleans. Ex World curling champion for Sweden.

Gwyn Lewis cornet and vocals. Joined the band after playing for UK based New Orleans Heat. Been playing since leaving the Merchant Navy in the early 1980’s. Entertaining vocalist.

Gwyn Lewis

Pershore Jazz Festival 2018

Held at Pershore College 17th, 18th, 19th August.

My first visit to Pershore Jazz Festival, and what an excellent weekend it turned out to be. Arriving Friday P.M. the festival kicked off at 6 with the Ian Bateman Band's "Kenny Ball's Greatest Hits".

The highlight of the evening was Keith Nicholls with his "Paramount Broadcasters" I must state here that the festival seemed to be built around a number of excellent musicians, Keith Nicholls included, who, with other musicians, appeared in various groups over the weekend. The evening ended with the Hallam/Clarke sextet with Jim Douglas on guitar. The real star in this group though was 18year old Alex Clarke on tenor sax, she blows like a veteran and is worth looking out for.

Saturday began with the "Sunset Café Stompers", a New Orleans group from the West Country; who were followed by Martin Wheatley and "Spats" Langham, always a joy to listen to their fund of knowledge as well as the music.

Rico's Revellers with Enrico Tomasso, one of our finest trumpeters, leading a group which included his daughter Analucia on vocals.

The "Vitality Five" gave a performance of 1920,s hot jazz and stomps.

Nick Ward's "Jelly Roll Quartet" with Keith Nicholls and "Spats" Langham provided some excellent "Jelly Roll" pieces.

A group which really "blew up a storm", were the Hughes/Maddocks/Brownfield band with Graham Hughes (trombone), John Maddocks (reeds), Jamie Brownfield (trumpet), Tom Kincaid (piano), Jim Douglas (guitar/banjo), Bruce Rollo (bass), Jack Cotterill (drums). Fantastic to listen to, but unfortunately they haven't recorded yet with this line-up.

Sunday was a late start for me, 11.30 with Roy Sainsbury's Rhythm Chiefs, a group inspired by the Count Basie small groups. Really good stuff. I finished with another group playing the jazz of the '20's and '30's, The Basin Street Brawlers. An excellent finish to the weekend.

What was impressive was the number of younger musicians who were clearly enjoying what they were playing. It is a great pity that this youth was not reflected in the age of the audience. I have reported on only eleven of the groups, there were in total 36 groups. A musical feast to please everyone.

Pershore is a compact festival with accommodation in student rooms. there are four venues, three within college buildings and one large marquee. The college refectory serves hot and cold food throughout the day and the student bar has real ale. What more could you ask for.

275 Trevor Owens, Dunstable Beds.



Attendees at Cafe Jazz would be aware of the Gigs played by the Memphis Six. Jeff Salter became the Tenor Sax/Clarinet player in 2014. A well known musician who started playing with The Boston's Dance Band in Port-Talbot at the age of 17. In 1983, he joined the well-known Constellation Big Band in Swansea and soon established himself as the star Tenor Saxophone player. According to Bill Davies, the leader of the Bridgend Big Band, Jeff went on to become the number one Tenor Sax player in Wales, always in demand to support other bands and small jazz groups. He was well known for his support for young saxophone players in the Bridgend Band, who were gaining experience of Swing and Jazz improvisation before going to Music College.

Don Thomas

From the PJS :- Our condolences to Jeff's family and friends

.Jeff Salter

The subject of what time we start and finish has been raised. It has been noted that every week about 10.50pm many of the audience have got up and gone home, thus missing the last one or two numbers. It has been suggested that we start at say 8.15pm and finish and 10.45 making it possible for everyone to hear the session.

So I'll put it to you to voice your opinion.

You can either email me, let Paul or me know on the door when you come. It will NOT be first past the post but a substantial majority to make a change.

If a change is made then we would propose changing in the New year



John Couch & Mike Pearce

John Bridges & Eddie Williams



PJS Gig List



September

- 11 The Old Boy Jazz Band Adm £5.00
18 Donnie Joe's American Swing
25 Moonlight Boulevard

October

- 2 Mike Harries Tribute – The Early Years
 Former members of the MHJB and Adamant
 Marching Band are invited to have a blow to celebrate
 The life of Mike. Hope to see you there
- 9 John Davies quintet
16 All That Jazz
23 The Camelia Jazz Band
30 Phil Wall's Jazz Quartet

Join our Mailing List and receive weekly reminders of "What's ON"

Just send a note to:- pjscardiff@btinternet.com

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Café Jazz - The Sandringham Hotel, St. Mary Street, Cardiff

Admission - unless otherwise stated

P.J.S Members & Concessions £4.00 - Non Members £4.50, Students £2.00.

Specials £5.00

Café JAZZ

The PJS Acknowledge assistance from Dutton Hotels