



It was the perfect start to February with the return of the John Maddocks Jazz Men to the Bude Jazz Club. It was their first visit to the club since the 2007 Anniversary gig - far too long. This talented group of musicians delighted audience and dancers alike with their pulsating performance. The line-up was not as published in last month's Hot Notes with Simon Banks on piano and Dave Broomfield on banjo and guitar replacing Peter Tamplin and Keith Dorey respectively.

They started off in good style with a bouncing version of Cole Porter's *C'est Magnifique* followed by one of W.C. Handy's most famous compositions from 1916, *Beale Street Blues*. The band then turned to a number Duke Ellington wrote in 1930 for the Amos 'n' Andy picture *Check and Double Check*, *Ring Dem*

Bells. John then supplied the vocal on Clarence Williams' *Wait till you see my Baby do the Charleston*. Then it was trumpeter Peter Wilkinson's turn to pick up the microphone to sing the Ballard McDonald lyrics to Mary Earl's 1918 composition *Beautiful Ohio* (which became the official state song of Ohio in 1969). Simon Banks then pushed a couple of buttons on his electric piano to make it sound like a vibraphone as the boys played a swing version of Will Grosz's well known piece *Isle of Capri*. The first set closed out with a little heard of number from the mighty pen of Jelly Roll Morton, *Little Lawrence* (which was dedicated to legendary New Orleans clarinettist Lorenzo Tio Jnr who was visiting New York at the time of it's composition in 1930).

The second set began with Jimmy Hodges composition *Someday (You'll Want Me to Want You)* with Peter returning with the vocal. Then things slowed up considerably with a rendition of *Jelly Bean Blues*, a number written by the Mother of the Blues Ma Rainey in 1924. It was then turn for the brolliers to strut their stuff to the strains of Paul Barbarin's *Second Line*. Quite often I look around at the beginning of the evening looking for brollies to gauge how many will be participating. Not many tonight I thought, until they appeared from every nook and cranny to display themselves colourfully. Devious women hiding them on me! After the last one was packed away, John gave us a wonderful rendition of Fats Waller's and Clarence Williams' *Wild Cat Blues*. Next up was a number that I have never heard before called *Lull at Dawn* and it featured an excellent extended guitar break by Dave Broomfield. Harry Von Tilzer's *I'm Wondering Who* followed with the Jo Trent lyrics sung well by Peter. The final number for the second set was Pete Bocage's melodic *New Orleans Wiggle*.

So onto the third and final set which began with Lil Armstrong's *Gate Mouth* (One of Louis Armstrong's many nicknames he was given over the size of his "chops"). *Red Man Blues*, another Pete Bocage number he wrote whilst with the Armand Piron Orchestra, followed this before John took centre stage again for another solo on clarinet with *Help me make it through the night*. A standing ovation followed this one. Really wonderful. Another clarinet solo followed with Louis Armstrong's *Swing that Music* which was followed by a number dedicated to our late member Roy Stears with Irving Berlin's classic *When I Leave the World Behind* which featured Peter with the vocal. Peter held onto the mike for the next piece too singing the Bud Green lyrics to Sam Stept's 1929 composition *Do Something*. The final number for the evening, the old traditional piece *The Girls Go Crazy 'bout the Way I Walk* featuring a vocal by John.

Well, to sum up the evening, just one word, superb. The band really worked well together, John excellent as usual on his clarinet and Simon Banks' piano a delight as well. I can not believe that this band has not been invited to the Bude Jazz Festival this year, a definite *faux pas* by the management of that event and the festival will certainly be poorer because of this omission. The BJC will not be so foolish however and I'm sure they will be back next year.

See you around the gigs...

Paul