



Saturday, May 2nd. 2009

## John Shillito's Select Six

*- it's the font of all knowledge - some would say !*

This month we are pleased to be able to welcome to Dove a band from the Southwest region of this green and pleasant land, one that is making their first foray to your Club, on its way up to the Keswick Jazz Festival. However, more than one of its constituent members will already be known to you. I am very pleased to note from the John Shillito's Select Six Gig List that they are also looking forward to visiting what they describe as a venue that is known on the jazz scene, "as a popular centre of jazz enthusiasm." There's a new description for our publicity machine to get to grips with!

John is almost a local lad, being born just over the Derbyshire border in Sheffield. It was there, in his early teens, that he was bitten by the jazz bug through the raw excitement of Sidney Bechet's soprano sax playing issuing forth from a wind-up gramophone. It wasn't long, however, before he was stopped in his tracks by the music of the great early jazz trumpeters such as Louis Armstrong, Henry "Red" Allen and Jabbo Smith, and the later recordings of Bunk Johnson and "Kid" Howard. After borrowing an old cornet from his uncle, who was a "brass band chap," he religiously learned all the scales, as instructed by his uncle. Why is it that prospective jazzers never borrow new instruments? At the same time, as with so many others of the era, 78 rpm gramophone records made a great impression on him and subsequently he became a regular visitor at live jazz venues in Sheffield. He was even allowed to sit in with some of the bands, who, in his own words, "were very tolerant."

His outstanding talent and ability as a trumpet player was soon recognised and encouraged by other musicians. As fellow aspiring jazz players crossed his path John formed his first band, relying heavily upon the talents of other students who should have had their noses in their books.

All was not lost, however, and in a couple of years, a University place was secured at the London School of Economics. I seem to remember from the news items of the day that there were a lot of militants there! Coincidentally or not London is where John was based as a musician for the next 15 years! During this time John led his own band which was resident at the Club known as Studio 51, The Ken Colyer Club, and played in the line up of John Bastible who took over the Ken Colyer Band in the early seventies for a time when Ken was ill. In 1972 Devon became the home of Mr Shillito's trumpet and it is from this base that John operates today. Over the past 12 years John has formed a close association with Roger Mark's Armada Jazz Band and it is with this band that he has trod the boards at Dove on several occasions in recent times.

The Select Six comprise: - **Bobby Fox - trombone, John Wurr - clarinet, alto & baritone saxes, Derek Maughan - drums, John Whitlock - guitar and banjo, Bob Jarvis - bass guitar** and of course **John Shillito - trumpet & vocals**. This really is a "full on," exciting and accomplished band with a strong repertoire of tunes straight out of New Orleans! They produce a great ensemble sound as well as featuring outstanding soloists. You will be in for yet another great night's entertainment from a band with plenty of high spirits and that "extra something" that you don't find so often!

The July Festival is nearly upon us and if you still need tickets - avoid disappointment, don't delay! Booking forms are available online or at the gig along with your 2009 Fixture Cards. The Festival presents an outstanding line up of bands and musicians. A visit to the much talked about Web site at [www.dovejazz.co.uk](http://www.dovejazz.co.uk) also gives you access to all the up to date news about Dove Jazz Club. Don't forget to support the raffle and why not take one of our famed pork pies home for your supper. On the other hand they go down really well with a pint of Hen at the club itself!

RTM

**Our next gig - Saturday June 6th. 2009**

**New Orleans Heat**

**Please note - our new Web address is [www.dovejazzclub.co.uk](http://www.dovejazzclub.co.uk)**