



This Saturday, October 25th. 2008
Martin Bennett's Old Green River Band

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

We are pleased to welcome the ever enthusiastic **Martin Bennett** back to Dove Jazz Club for what must be his twenty, if not thirty, somethingth appearance. He was featured in the first ever New Orleans Jazz Concert that I presented in the then brand new Village Hall some twenty years ago. The other luminaries gracing the stage that night were Colin Bowden, Howard Worthington and an extremely youthful Tom Langham in the rhythm section with Ged Hone and I think with the late great Chris Blount joining Martin on the front line. One thing that I can be certain about (on account of its absence !) is that there was definitely no Speckled Hen on sale that night! In fact it is highly likely that there was no real ale whatsoever behind the bar.

Martin brings his Old Green River Band with him tonight and with their own most distinctive style they will be demonstrating the considerable crowd-pleasing skills and vitality that they have so ably produced to much acclaim at our Festivals in recent years. Vocals are a strong feature of the band with material from a wide variety of diverse backgrounds including the earliest of blues and jazz recordings, with the odd music hall song thrown in for good measure.

Their latest recruit is the vastly experienced **Dave Copperwaite** on **trumpet**. Dave has been on the British jazz scene for a long time and has a deep-rooted love and boundless enthusiasm for the sounds of New Orleans. The exceptionally talented **reeds** player, **Howard Murray**, joins Dave on the front line, where he will no doubt be demonstrating his most able musicianship alongside his solid reputation for inventive solos. **John Finch** occupies the **trombone** chair having first come to prominence in the London area some 40 odd years ago. John plays in his own inimitable style and is able to offer a sweet sounding solo, not to mention driving funky ones as well.

A powerful rhythm section is made up of a combination of two young bloods and yet another product of the London jazz scene of over 40 years ago.

The exciting and always youthfully exuberant drummer, **Stuart Smith**, joined the band whilst he was studying for his Music Degree at Salford University and possesses a technique well in advance of his 25 years. Also on the back line is a close friend of John Finch going back all the way to those magical days for jazz of London in the fifties, **Mac MacDonald** on **banjo**. Mac has an excellent understanding of what New Orleans banjo playing is truly about and enhances any band with his trademark rhythmic style that he has developed over many years.

Lastly but certainly not leastly yet more youthful exuberance is to be enjoyed, as provided by another young blood who is no stranger to the Dove podium, **Jim Swinnerton** on **string bass**. The inheritor of a wonderful birthright from his famous father Jack of legendary Manchester Sports Guild fame, Jim began his musical career at the age of 8 on the clarinet, switching to the bass fiddle at the age of eighteen. Jim's fluent and energetic playing style have led him to become a much sought after player on the North West Jazz Scene as well as much further afield.

We are certain of an entertaining night and I trust that you will join me in giving The Old Green River Band a very warm return greeting to the Club - and then supporting us once more on Saturday the 22nd November when Ged Hone with his Chosen New Orleans Men will be providing the entertainment. The presence of John Hallam, Terry Brunt, Colin Bowden, Ian McCann and Howard Worthington alongside Ged will ensure an evening of riveting New Orleans Music you can surely be sure - and how about bringing a friend or two along to help to " keep jazz live by visiting your local dive" !

RTM

Our next gig - Saturday November 22nd. 2008

Ged Hone's Chosen New Orleans Men

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