



## **Jazz on the Great Ouse – 2021 Cruises    Embargo: Immediate**

The John Bunyan Boat Team are pleased to announce forthcoming Jazz Cruises. The cruises are run in association with Olney Jazz Club and feature top national and local jazz musicians.

The next cruise is on: *Thursday July 15th and features the Richard Exall Trio. Due to social distancing restrictions, numbers are strictly limited and this cruise has already sold out.*

*The following cruise on Thursday August 19th features the Ben Holder Trio featuring Ben Holder (violin) with Jez Cook (guitar) and Paul Jefferies (bass).*

**Ben Holder** is one of the most gifted and exciting jazz violinists in the UK. Taught classically from the age of six, he studied at the Birmingham Conservatoire. During his classical studies, Ben began listening to Jazz - classic masters such as Benny Goodman and Oscar Peterson and of course the great jazz violinists including Grappelli, Joe Venuti and the awe-inspiring Stuff Smith. Alongside his early studies and later at college he embarked on a detailed analysis of these musician's techniques and the way in which they merged this most classical of instruments into the jazz idiom. Ben's innate sense of swing rhythm stems from those early listening sessions - and his various awards bear testimony to his abilities. "A first call jazz violinist for many of the North's top bands and studios." Ben is a favourite performer on the John Bunyan Boat Cruises and has played on the boat regularly since the jazz cruises started. He is also a great favourite with The Olney Jazz Club, and the Walnut Tree Hotel Jazz Sessions. He is joined by two top musicians hailing from the Midlands, notably **Jez Cook** on guitar.....you can hear the Django influence, and **Paul Jeffries**.....virtuoso of the stand-up bass.



**September 16th The Gary Wood Swing Trio featuring Gary Wood with Roger Evan (Keyboard) Chris Green (bass)**

**Gary Wood** started playing the cornet at the age of 8 with his local brass band, however it wasn't until he left school that he took a real interest in music. He quickly developed a taste for jazz and swing music, joining his first band in 1986. Gary has now built a solid reputation as a trumpeter and vocalist and now works as a busy, freelance musician appearing with bands in a variety of jazz & swing styles. **Gary Wood** has performed at festivals in the UK and Europe and has played with many top musicians. **Gary** is also a regular performer on the John Bunyan Boat Jazz Cruises, and a firm favourite with The Olney Jazz Club, and the Walnut Tree Hotel Jazz Sessions. **Gary** has

recently released his debut CD 'Evening Standards'. He is ably accompanied by the keyboard wizardry of *Roger Evans* and *Chris Green*, (bass), the band's heartbeat.



**Roger Evan** – Keyboard - Roger has been playing jazz, pop and classical piano for many years both as a solo artist, in small jazz ensembles and larger function bands. A graduate of the Surrey University Tonmeister course, and co-author of PC Music Handbook, he continues to teach both the technical and artistic components of music composition, improvisation and recording.

**Chris Green** – Bass – Chris originally developed his music interest as a classical guitarist, but began playing the double bass at the age of fourteen. He did his first 'gig' just a few months later, and has n't stopped since. Chris has worked in numerous bands throughout the country, including the Memphis Belle Swing Orchestra.

**Thursday October 21st –Cool Jazz Collective Trio featuring Elaine Hatton (vocals) Neil Riches (piano) and Chris Green (bass)**

The Cool Jazz Collective have been described as Northampton's best kept secret. Cool Jazz Collective features the smooth, mellow vocals of *Elaine Hatton* and *Neil's* delicate touch on the keys. *Elaine* combines her love of songs from the musicals, pop classics and, of course, Jazz with *Neil's* sublime rendering of obscure jazz standards with Latin and modern jazz, to create the



perfect combination. At the core *Neil's* airtight arrangements celebrates the original with a sprinkle of the contemporary. We are very pleased to welcome the Cool Jazz Collective back onto the John Bunyan Boat Jazz Cruise following their debut on our last jazz cruise before lockdown!

*Elaine Hatton* has had a passion for music since she was a child. This was first realised with the violin, but her appetite for singing later became clear. She has performed in many situations, including classical choral pieces and acapella choirs. Although a late comer to jazz, she has a deep love for it.

Whilst largely self-taught *Elaine* has natural talent, understanding harmony, phrasing and interpretation. She is blessed with a genuinely distinctive sound, drawing reference from her influences such as Ella Fitzgerald and Diana Krall. She has a subtle style and an amazing range with a low resonance that will stand the hairs on the back of your neck on end.

*Neil Riches* began learning the piano at a very early age and a musical career was in no doubt. He focused on an extensive classical repertoire initially, but studied jazz at the Leeds College of Music, winning the 'best performance on a keyboard instrument' prize in his final year. Since then, *Neil* has worked extensively in the music business from cruise ships to variety theatre and musicals. He has backed many artists and has been sought after for many shows.

His piano style is electrifying and animated. Fans of the 'ivories' are in for a treat. His use of plush harmonies coupled with a really tasteful improvisatory flair compliments *Elaine's* vocal style perfectly.