



New Year is just a few weeks old as I write, and I hope that all our members and supporters have enjoyed some special time during December with friends and families and have stayed well and free from Omnicrom variant. Unfortunately my own Christmas and New Year plans were wrecked as my wife and I both tested positive a few days before Christmas. Although we suffered nothing worse than bad colds (both double jabbed and boosted which I am sure helped us a great deal), it was very disappointing and the after effects of general fatigue did linger for a few weeks.

However - to the present! The good news is that Ongar Jazz Club continues to survive! Over the past year many jazz clubs have had to close permanently. Your OJC Committee are working hard to ensure we will thrive in 2022 and continue to bring live jazz music of the highest quality for the people of Ongar and district to enjoy at their 'local' venue - the Budworth Hall, High Street, Ongar!

Our last concert in 2021 was on 10 December when we were treated to a great evening of superb jazz from the talented **Peter Rudeforth Jazz Band** – every musician playing superbly - it was a real joy to hear them.

At the time of writing this we are looking forward to our first meeting on **21st January** when we will start off 2022 on a high note by welcoming back **The Julian Marc Stringle Sextet**. Julian has played for us on many occasions, and is one of the UK's finest clarinettists so we are certain of a great evening of music to enjoy from Gershwin to Goodman.

Making a long overdue return to OJC on **February 18th** we have **Graham Hughes and the Sunshine Kings**. They will bring us their musical sunshine, making turning out on a dark February evening well worth the effort!

Another very welcome personality is returning to play for OJC on **March 18th - Kevin Grenfell and his Jazz Giants**. As well as being a superb musician Kevin is such a good entertainer that our evening will be filled to the brim with good music and humour!

There's so much good jazz coming to Ongar, played by talented musicians in a comfortable venue. If you haven't yet been to an Ongar Jazz Club meeting, don't waste any more time! Come along and enjoy live music of high quality at a very reasonable cost.

The Budworth Hall management have been unable to open the Bar for our September-December meetings, and at the time of writing this we are uncertain about their current position. However, if their Bar is *not* available, members and friends attending can bring their own drinks and nibbles etc., on condition that they bring plastic/paper cups (no glass) and take away all rubbish at the end of the evening.

Details about Bands booked to play for OJC during 2022 are on the OJC website along with much useful information about the Club and how you can become a member and enjoy the

benefits for a very modest membership subscription. We are a friendly crowd, so do take a look at our website – www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk

Howard Nicholson,

Chairman, OJC