



## January 2023

The New Year has arrived! I wish all readers and contributors to Ongar News a Happy New Year and hope 2023 bring lots of good things for us all. (An end to the war in Ukraine tops my wish list). Good news seemed to be a thing of the past, with so many horrendous things happening here in the UK and around the world as well as the impending disasters of global warming! But there **are** good things coming to Ongar including a terrific series of Ongar Jazz Club concerts at the Budworth Hall that give us something to enjoy together.

Congratulations to the Ongar Community Association for providing new seating in the Ball Room - very comfortable after those elderly plastic stacking chairs! I understand there are also plans in hand to improve the facilities generally, including an arrangement to book food before our concerts! (See our website at [www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk](http://www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk) for more details). It was great to have the Budworth Bar open on October 21st – much appreciated by the Dave Browning Jazz Cats and the audience too. **Simon Nelsons Dixie Mix**, who gave us a stunning evening on November 18, were also very appreciative of the warm welcome they received from Ongar Jazz Club and the Bar. They played with tremendous energy and drive, giving us a really wonderful evening that drew huge applause from a very happy audience.

Our first concert of 2023 is on **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> January at 8.0pm** featuring the **Amy Roberts Quintet**. Amy will be accompanied by her equally talented husband, **Richard Exall** along with their rhythm section. An exciting night of wood-wind jazz, featuring clarinets, saxophones and flutes is promised! Amy and Richard are both classically trained musicians and, I think, met whilst studying at one of the top Colleges of Music. Having a flute player as part of a jazz group is certainly different, but – as anyone who has heard Amy play will confirm - it will be wonderful!

At the time of writing this, the evening with **The Forest Hill Owls** on **9<sup>th</sup> December** is a future event – it's a Christmas treat that I'm *really* looking forward to! They are a stellar new group bringing together some of London's finest musicians, playing authentic transcriptions and arrangements of hot jazz and popular music of the 1920s and 1930s. The Owls not only sound the part but also look the part, appearing in period suits or evening dress!

Looking forward to the following month, we welcome back **Enrico Tomasso's Swing Band** on **February 17<sup>th</sup>**. Enrico plays trumpet, sings like Louis Armstrong and can be relied upon to drive away the winter blues with his full-blooded swinging jazz band.

So now is the time to make a New Year's resolution *not* to miss the wonderful jazz music that is available in Ongar! Why make long car journeys or trains into London when some of the best bands in the UK are playing in our home town! Finally a big *Thank You* to all our members and their friends who support very generously our monthly raffles, enabling OJC to continue making donations to local charities who are always very grateful and do such good work.

Check our website – [www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk](http://www.ongarjazzclub.co.uk) for information on all the bands playing in this our 37<sup>th</sup> Season and how to make your reservations via the website, or contact Paul Keska (home: 01227365670, or Mobile 07768 815390. Tickets are all £15 and can be bought on the door.

I look forward to seeing you at an Ongar Jazz Club concert very soon! Meanwhile, may 2023 be a year of better times for us all.

*Patti Nicholson*