

CHRIS BARBER

JAZZ &
BLUES BAND

1/20/89

The first tour of 1989 will be in Holland and full venue details for these and future dates in that country can be obtained from the offices of our agents for Denmark & Holland, Wim Wigt Productions. The telephone number is 08370 13440 or 13445. The locations for the winter tour are as follows:

JAN 4: T.B.A	FEB 5: ROTTERDAM
JAN 5: LEEUWARDEN	FEB 6: T.B.A.
JAN 6: T.B.A.	FEB 7: EINDHOVEN
JAN 7: TIEL	FEB 8: SLIEDRECHT
JAN 8: ROTTERDAM	FEB 9: MINDEN
JAN 9: T.B.A.	FEB 10: NEW ISENBURG
JAN 10: AALTEN	
JAN 11: DEVENTER	
JAN 12: ENSCHEDE	
JAN 13: ZAANDAM	
JAN 14: GRONINGEN	
JAN 15: ARNHEM	
JAN 16: T.B.A	
JAN 17: VLAARDINGEN	
JAN 18: UTRECHT	
JAN 19: AMSTERDAM	
JAN 20: GOUDA	
JAN 21: LEIDEN	

After the date in Leiden the band will 'sandwich' in a short round of U.K. dates followed by a brief rest before returning to Rotterdam:

SUN JAN 22: Clair Hall:HAYWARDS HEATH: Sussex
MON JAN 23: The Hippodrome:COLCHESTER:Essex
TUE JAN 24: Wyvern Theatre:SWINDON:Wiltshire
(with special guest RORY GALLAGHER)
WED JAN 25: 100 Club:Oxford Street:LONDON W1
THU JAN 26: The Manor:West Bridgford:NOTTINGHAM
FRI JAN 27: Queens Hall Arts Centre:HEXHAM:Northumberland
SAT JAN 28: The Stables:WAVENDON:Nr. Milton Keynes:Bucks.
SUN JAN 29: Uppingham School:UPPINGHAM:Leics.

Ottillie Patterson has retired from singing for the foreseeable future and will not be appearing on concerts previously advertised. She has moved house from Hertfordshire to Scotland and will find touring impractical for the time being. It is quite possible that she may make surprise guest appearances from time to time in the future on an informal basis and such appearances will not be advertised. There will be replacement guests on those concerts where Ottillie was billed to appear - for example at the Birmingham concert (December 18th) SPENCER DAVIS will appear with the band.

JOIN IN THE APPLAUSE.....

The concert at St. Ives (Burgess Hall) on December 7th will be recorded for BBC Radio 2's 'Sounds of Jazz'. The concert is sponsored by the St. Ives edition of the Cambridge Weekly News Group and tickets are selling fast. Advance tickets at £5.50 can be obtained either from the St. Ivo Centre (Tel 0480 64601) or the St. Ives Weekly News (Tel 0480 67670). Tickets at the doors on the night (subject to availability) will be £6.00

END OF AN ERA.....OR TWO....

The concert at Tonbridge (Hugh Christie) school will prove to be both a celebration and a swan song. It will be the 21st anniversary of appearances by the Chris Barber Band at this venue but probably the last. Ashley Best, a senior master at the school, is retiring this term and it is unlikely that any successor will be able to devote the time and patience that Ashley has applied through his dedication over the past 21 years in making these concerts such a success. We wish him well in his retirement.

TRAD'S ARMY?????.....

The absence of both LONNIE DONEGAN and OTTILIE PATTERSON from the 35 year Anniversary dates next year will in no way impair the sense of occasion because on a number of dates Chris will be digging even further into the past by featuring some very special guests from his original 1949 amateur band. There is nothing amateur, however, about the playing of BEN COHEN, ALEX REVELL, GERRY FRENCH, FERDY FAVAGAR and co who will appear all or severally from time to time on the anniversary concerts. Those of you who have volume one of the 25 year Jubilee Album in your collection will have heard this line-up and maybe even SOME who can remember hearing them 'live' all those years ago! This will be your first ever chance, though, to hear them not in mono but stereo!!

THE 100 CLUB.....35 YEARS ON.....

Thirty five years almost to the day, and certainly to the date May 31st 1954 when the band played its first engagement as professional outfit under Chris' leadership, on Wednesday May 31st 1989 the present band will appear with many ex-members along with pre-1954 stalwarts at a very special gala 're-union' night. This is one of the rare instances where the 100 Club will be selling tickets in advance and these will be on sale after Christmas although Roger Horton will accept postal advance reservations to the 100 Club, 100 Oxford Street, LONDON W1. Please note that no correspondence concerning this event can be dealt with at this office. All applications to the 100 Club only. Tickets are all at £10.00

CHRIS BARBER'S JAZZ & BLUES BAND - DATES FOR DECEMBER 1988

- THU DEC 1: Hugh Christie School:TONBRIDGE:Kent (Enq.A.Best 0892 78442)
- FRI DEC 2: Bedford School:Burnaby Road:BEDFORD:Bed
(8.00pm concert: Ticket enquiries to Tim Machin 0234 60118
or 53493)
- SAT DEC 3: Centre Space: High Street:HOUNSLOW:Middx
(with special guests as replacement for Otilie Patterson -
probably Ben Cohen, Alex Revell etc..)
Box Office 01 577 6969
- SUN DEC 4: Civic Hall:LICHFIELD:Staffs
Box office 05432 56505
- MON DEC 5: Music Hall:The Square:SHREWSBURY:Shropshire
Box office 0743 52255 or 52019
- WED DEC 7: Burgess Hall:St.Ivo Centre:ST. IVES:Cambs
Box office 0480 64601
- THU DEC 8: New Victoria Theatre:NEWCASTLE UNDER LYME :Staffs
7.30pm concert: Box Office 0782 712500 :Visa accepted
- FRI DEC 9: Civic Centre: PORT TALBOT:West Glamorgan
7.30 concert: Box office 0639 883141
- SAT DEC 10: Congress Theatre:CWMBRAN:Gwent
Tel:0633 838444
- SUN DEC 11: Queens Hotel:LEEDS : Yorks..
Promoted by Leeds City Council
Tickets £4.50 : Box Office 0532 462453
8.00pm concert
- MON DEC 12: Brewery Arts Centre:KENDAL:Cumbria
Box office:0539 25113
- TUE DEC 13: New Hereford Theatre:HEREFORD
Tel 0432 59252 : 8.00pm concert
- THU DEC 15: Palm Court Hotel:TORQUAY:Devon
Supper concert: Tel 0803 24881
- FRI DEC 16: Penryn School: Cornwall
Enq: Nigel Cooper 0872 864367
- SAT DEC 17: Centre Hall:WOKING:Surrey
8.00pm concert with special guests
Box office:Woking 69765
- SUN DEC 18: Repertory Theatre:BIRMINGHAM
with special guests
8.00pm concert
Box office: 021 236 4455

Concerts usually commence at 7.30 or 8.00pm and this is indicated where known. However, some venues do amend starting times without our knowledge so it is often worthwhile checking with the box office!.

This is just a reminder and for the benefit of new subscribers to note that this newsletter is not issued on a specific date .It is issued mainly in conjunction with UK touring periods although we include details of as many Continental dates as possible. There are approximately 8 issues per year and the next newsletter is scheduled for late December/early January.

Chris Barber blows his own trumpet

ALL THAT JAZZ!

BY MIKE RIPPON

IF YOU believe in fate, then Chris Barber's career in jazz is surely a shining example of that mystic force.

His father played classical violin, and as a schoolboy Chris followed in his footsteps by studying the instrument, at Cambridge while he was at King Alfred School in Royston during wartime evacuation.

But the young Barber heard the earliest invasion of jazz on British 'wireless' and from that time he was hooked on the sounds of Harry James and Duke Ellington.

His pocket money was spent on 78 rpm gramophone records and by the time he had left school, Chris had a collection of more than 100 of the jazz greats.

"Each one cost five shillings (25 pence) each, which is about £2.50 in today's money, so it was quite valuable," he said.

Because of his excellent mathematics at school, Chris began training as an insurance actuary, but on one of his many visits to London's 100 Club, a hard-up member of a jazz band sold him a trombone for £6 10s 0d (£6.50).

Once he had learned the instrument, the first Chris Barber Band came into existence in 1949, on an amateur basis.

It became obvious that his interest in jazz was paramount, and after he had failed his exams, his father paid for him to attend a school of music, although later he found that he could have won a scholarship.

May 1954 saw the formation of the Chris Barber Band which has been playing its way around the world ever since, including several appearances at the jazz mecca of New Orleans.

Never staying in one place for very long — "We get nervous after the second night" — the band has driven distances by road equal to three round trips to the moon since its formation.

"We treat the travelling as a part of the job, and probably don't enjoy it any more than the next man. But I happen to enjoy driving, which helps," Chris said.

He is particularly keen on the Newcastle Playhouse as a venue in the North East, and has already played there twice since its re-opening.

Explaining the length of time that the Chris Barber Band has been in existence, and its popularity, he said: "We are constantly incorporating new sounds, styles and ideas into the programme so that we can keep the music fresh and interesting both for our fans, and ourselves."

"There are plenty of jazz bands around — some playing 'traditional', some playing 'blues' — but we like to cover the whole spectrum of the music, and always try to get a depth of feeling into all the numbers.

"I have no idea which direction jazz will go in future years, if I knew I would be playing the music now!" said Chris.

Thursday, 29th September, 1988 **Gateshead Post & Times**

NOVEMBER 1ST. 1988

**CROMWELL
MANAGEMENT**

CROMWELL MANAGEMENT · THE COACH HOUSE · 9A THE BROADWAY
STIVES · HUNTINGDON · CAMBS PE17 4BX · Telephone: (0480) 65695