

Peterborough Jazz Club

NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 11 2026
Alex Clarke Quintet



November 21 2026
From the USA
Greg Abate Quintet



A MESSAGE FROM LAURIE

This Newsletter highlights the first concert of the next season and also previews our October and November concerts. Again we provide an insight into the biographical details of some of the musicians who have appeared at the Club over the years. It was great to reconnect with Matt Wates last November after a gap of many years and some of us will remember seeing the wonderful saxophonist Bobby Wellins a number of times. It was also very special to present Bud Shank at the Club some 31 years ago!

Some of you may have seen the recent sad news of the death of Sonny Rollins aged 95 on 25th May. Sonny was the last surviving superstar from the great 1950's, 60's and 70's eras and it was always good to know he was still with us, although he had to give up playing around 2014, having developed a serious lung condition. However, the memory of his playing and listening to his many albums will last forever.

I was lucky enough to hear him live once at the Festival Hall when he was in his late 60's, still playing superbly well. Unfortunately, I missed seeing him at Ronnie Scott's back in the day as that would have been even more special. In the mid 1990's I did send Sonny a fax asking if he might consider playing a concert at our Club. He kindly replied saying he was only playing one concert a year in London and it wouldn't be possible; that would have been some night at the Great Northern Hotel!

Our Next Concert



Steve Fishwick/Leon Greening/Alex Garnett Quintet

For the first concert of the new season at the Club we are delighted to present 'Soultime', a very exciting band drawing its inspiration from the iconic jazz of the 1950's and 60's featuring reworkings of music from legends of the hard-bop era including Bobby Timmons, Lee Morgan and Harold Mabern. The band was formed in 2022 by the brilliant trumpeter Steve Fishwick and top pianist Leon Greening and is augmented for this concert by the superb saxophonist, Alex Garnett. Steve Fishwick is widely considered to be one of the finest trumpet players in the UK, and is rapidly gaining a global reputation thanks to his flawless technique and beautifully flowing, harmonically rich improvisations.

Leon Greening is an incredibly exciting pianist, full of wonderful ideas with superb technique. His album "Cookin' in Brooklyn" recorded at Systems Two recording studio in New York features the great US alto saxophonist Vincent Herring and the magnificent Alex Garnett on tenor sax who features in tonight's concert.

The rhythm section is rounded out by Matyas Hofecker on double bass and drummer Matt Home, both of whom are very highly regarded on the UK jazz scene. The band has played at many of the top UK venues, such as Ronnie Scott's, Dean Street and 606 Club and we can look forward to hard swinging, soulful tunes and infectious grooves!

Saturday 19th September 2026

Tickets £24

Music Starts at 7.45pm in the Key Studio Theatre

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A Spotlight on Some of the Musicians Who Have Played at the Club

One of the great pleasures of running a jazz club is the extraordinary musicians we meet along the way. Over the years our stage has hosted players from across the UK and beyond. In this occasional series we'll shine a spotlight on some of those artists—looking at their backgrounds, influences, and the paths that led them to our Club. Some will be well-known names, others rising talents, but all have helped create the memorable evenings of jazz that we enjoy together. We hope you'll enjoy learning a little more about the artists behind the music.

Matt Wates



Matt Wates first performed at The Club with his Sextet on **May 20th 1994** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with him were Martin Shaw (trumpet), Andy Panay (sax/flute), John Pierce (piano), Malcolm Creese (bass), Tristan Maillot (drums).

Matt Wates is a highly respected British jazz alto saxophonist, composer and arranger, known for his lyrical style, strong melodic sense and commitment to the classic traditions of modern jazz. Born in London in 1964, he studied at the renowned Berklee College of Music in Boston, graduating in 1988, where he developed the arranging and compositional skills that would become a hallmark of his work. Since emerging on the UK jazz scene, Wates has performed and recorded with many leading musicians, including Humphrey Lyttelton, Bobby Wellins, Norma Winstone, Ian Shaw, Peter King and Jamie Cullum. He first gained widespread recognition when he won the Rising Star Award at the 1997 British Jazz Awards.

Wates is best known as leader of the Matt Wates Sextet, an acclaimed ensemble that combines original compositions with fresh interpretations of jazz standards. The group has released numerous albums and has been praised for its tight ensemble playing, sophisticated arrangements and infectious swing. Drawing inspiration from jazz greats such as Cannonball Adderley, Paul Desmond and Horace Silver, Wates has established himself as one of Britain's most distinctive and accomplished jazz musicians, admired by audiences and fellow performers alike for his musicianship, creativity and expressive playing.

Theo Travis



Theo Travis first performed at The Club with his Quartet on **March 3rd 1995** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with him were Dave Gordon (piano), Rob Strathan (bass), Ichiro Tatsuhara (drums).

Theo Travis is one of Britain's most versatile and respected jazz musicians, renowned for his expressive saxophone playing, accomplished flute work, and imaginative compositions. Born in Birmingham in 1964, he studied classical music at the University of Manchester while developing a strong interest in jazz improvisation. After moving to London in the early 1990's, he quickly established himself as a leading figure on the UK jazz scene, earning praise for his lyrical style, technical mastery, and adventurous musical approach. As a bandleader, Travis has released numerous acclaimed recordings and has performed extensively throughout the United Kingdom and internationally. His album *View From the Edge* was voted Best British Jazz CD of 1994, helping to cement his growing reputation. Beyond jazz, Travis has built an impressive career in progressive and experimental music, collaborating with artists such as Robert Fripp, David Gilmour, Steven Wilson, Gong, and Soft Machine. Equally at home in straight-ahead jazz, fusion, ambient music, and rock, he has appeared on more than a hundred recordings. Today, Theo Travis is widely regarded as a musician whose creativity and versatility continue to enrich both the jazz and progressive music worlds.

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A Spotlight on Some of the Musicians Who Have Played at the Club

Bobby Wellins 1936 - 2016



Bobby Wellins first performed at The Club on **April 7th 1995** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with him were John Critchinson (piano), Andy Cleynhert (bass), Martin Drew (drums).

Bobby Wellins was one of the most respected tenor saxophonists in British jazz. Born in Glasgow, he grew up in a musical family and began playing saxophone at an early age. During the 1950's he moved to London, where he quickly established himself as a leading figure on the British jazz scene.

Wellins became renowned for his warm tone, lyrical improvisations and imaginative approach to melody. Although deeply influenced by American jazz masters such as Lester Young and Sonny Rollins, he developed a highly personal style that combined technical mastery with emotional depth.

His greatest acclaim came through his collaboration with composer and pianist Stan Tracey on the landmark 1965 album *Under Milk Wood*, inspired by the work of Welsh poet Dylan Thomas. Wellins' evocative tenor saxophone performance on the suite is widely regarded as one of the finest achievements in British jazz history.

Throughout a career spanning more than five decades, Wellins performed with many leading musicians in Britain and abroad, earning admiration for his creativity, integrity and expressive playing. He continued performing and recording into his later years, remaining a beloved figure within the jazz community. Today, Bobby Wellins is remembered as one of the most important and influential saxophonists ever produced by the United Kingdom.

Bud Shank. 1926 - 2009



Bud Shank first performed at The Club on **July 5th 1995** at the Great Northern Hotel. Playing with Bud were John Pearce (piano), Dave Green (bass), Martin Drew (drums).

Bud Shank was one of the most influential alto saxophonists of the West Coast jazz movement. Born Clifford Everett Shank Jr. in Dayton, Ohio, he initially studied clarinet before switching to alto saxophone. After serving in the U.S. Army during World War II, he moved to California, where he became a key figure in the emerging cool jazz scene of the 1950's.

Shank gained prominence as a member of the innovative Stan Kenton Orchestra, whose progressive approach to big-band jazz helped shape his musical development. He later established himself as a leading solo artist and collaborator, recording extensively with musicians such as Shorty Rogers, Shelly Manne and Laurindo Almeida. His recordings with Almeida were pioneering fusions of jazz and Brazilian music, predating the bossa nova craze by several years.

Known for his warm tone, lyrical improvisation and technical fluency, Shank remained active throughout his career, adapting to changing musical styles while maintaining his distinctive voice. In later decades he enjoyed a resurgence of acclaim, recording and touring internationally. Bud Shank's long and varied career left a lasting mark on jazz, and he is remembered as one of the foremost alto saxophonists of his generation.