

IT'S A TEN FROM LEN

What a busy time it's been since I last wrote. A concert in Croydon, a break at Warner's Sinah Warren, a dance competition, a wedding, a trip to Moscow, a concert in Sidcup, a new album recorded and, last week, a concert in Eastbourne with Len Goodman. Who said "big band music is dead!"?! I'm pleased to say that all of the above was a huge success; Warner's was a sell-out, Croydon was a sell-out, our concert with Len Goodman was the best attended event at the Winter Garden this year, the album is shaping up very nicely indeed and, despite Jon Shenoy being detained for a short while by Russian immigration officials, we had a great time in Moscow!

LEN PHILLIPSKI

I know many of you were interested to hear how the Russian trip went - well, it was one hell of an experience! Everything was hard work; just ordering a burger seemed an arduous task. Security staff didn't seem too friendly to the non-Russian speaker and obtaining visas was something of a nightmare (well you've seen the guys in the band - was it any wonder?! In spite of all this, we all had a great time, both on the gig and sightseeing. There were some 2000 guests at the event and the room was easily as big as the main concourse at Victoria Station. Visit our Facebook page to see photos from the trip - www.facebook.com/LenPhillipsBigBand (you don't need to have a Facebook account to visit the page).

A DOUBLE-BILL THIS MONTH IN SIDCUP

Not one, but two great guests will be joining us in Sidcup this Sunday. We have the always popular Glenn Macnamara singing plus virtuoso clarinettist and all-round showman, Pete Long. It promises to be one of our highlights at the club this year. Doors open at 7pm (please don't arrive earlier as the room will still be being set), the concert starts at 8pm and tickets are available on the door (£11 each). There is free evening parking behind the club. United Services Club, 108 Main Road, Sidcup, DA14 6NE - call 01322 521515 for more details.

LATE AVAILABILITY AT BODELWYDDAN CASTLE

Next month we are making our return visit to the beautiful Bodelwyddan Castle. Located on the North Wales coast and recently the subject of a £6 million renovation, this Victorian castle is the perfect base for walkers as well as housing the National Portrait Gallery's Victorian Collection. The Mulberry Leisure Club features steam room, sauna and tropicarium (whatever that is!) in addition to an indoor heated pool and fully equipped fitness studio. Our cabaret guest is the UK's number one Sinatra tribute act, Stephen Triffitt. We will, of course, be providing our usual programme of nightly dances, concerts and daytime activities. There is limited availability so call Warner's now to book your place on 0330 100 9774 or visit warnerleisurehotels.co.uk.

CLARE TEAL IN NORFOLK

Rooms are still available for our new weekend break at Richardson's Seacroft Holiday Village in Hemsby, Norfolk. The newly refurbished Harlequin cabaret room has a beautiful dance-floor and first-class sound system. Our cabaret guest for this break is BBC Radio 2's Clare Teal who always puts on a great show. Eleanor Keenan and Matthew Ford will also be with us for every night of the break. Half-board accommodation starts at just £175pp with "Premier" rooms (recommended) available for £195pp. To book, call 01493 809 910 or visit richardsonsholidayvillages.co.uk.

OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

26th June - Bexley Jazz Club, The Kings Head, Bexley Village - Jon Shenoy Quartet
29th June - Aldborough Festival, Harrogate - Jon Stokes joins Matt Ford's Close To You project
30th June - Caterham Jazz Festival - I'll be joining Georgina Jackson and Pete Long
5th July - Concorde Club, Eastleigh - Echoes of Ellington Orchestra (Chris Traves, me + Pete Long)
15th July - Dance Lab, Putney - The Len Phillips Dance Band (6 piece) plays for public ball
15th July - Harrogate International Festival - Russ Bennett & Jon Stokes with John Wilson Orchestra
16th July - United Services, Sidcup - Jeff Hooper joins the Len Phillips quartet
19th July - Grosvenor Square, London - Len Phillips Dance Band (quartet) plays for public dance
20th July - Folkestone Jazz Club, Tower Theatre - Bandleaders unite! Me, Pete Long & Chris Dean

A SAD FAREWELL TO ROY WILLOX

As many of you will know, Roy Willox has now retired from the band so that he can care for his wife. He will be sorely missed by both the musicians in the band and our regular followers. His sound and style are in a league of their own. His experience is unrivalled in today's music industry and I'm afraid we will never again hear any sax player who can bring what Roy brought to a band. Nobody will ever again be able to boast a CV that includes such a variety of work and all of such a world-class standard. Who else do you know who can say that they backed Frank Sinatra with the Count Basie band?! Astonishing. We wish Roy well and hope that we will see him again on our travels. Thank you Roy for doing so much to enhance the Len Phillips Big Band.

UPCOMING DATES

Sunday 25th June	8pm	United Services Club Main Road, Sidcup, Kent	£11	Tickets: 01322 521 515	Concert
Monday 10th - Friday 14th July		Warner's Bodelwyddan Castle Hotel Rhyl, North Wales		Reservations: 0330 100 9774	Big Band Break with Stephen Triffitt
Wednesday 6th September		Potters Leisure Resort Hopton-On-Sea, Norfolk		Reservations: 0333 3207 465	Big Band Festival
Saturday 23rd September		Mill Rythe Holiday Village Hayling Island		Reservations: 01442 508 850	Big Band Festival
Sunday 24th September	8pm	United Services Club Main Road, Sidcup, Kent	£11	Tickets: 01322 521 515	Concert
Fri 15th - Mon 18th September		Richardson's Seacroft Holiday Village Hemsby, Norfolk		Reservations: 01493 809 910	Big Band Break with Clare Teal
Monday 23rd - Friday 27th October		Warner's Sinah Warren Hotel Hayling Island, Hampshire		Reservations 0330 100 9774	Big Band Break with Alison Jear
Monday 5th - Friday 9th March 2018		Warner's Gunton Hall Coastal Resort Lowestoft, Suffolk		Reservations: 0330 100 9774	Big Band Break with Clare Teal
Monday 7th - Friday 11th May 2018		Warner's Sinah Warren Hotel Hayling Island, Hampshire		Reservations 0330 100 9774	Big Band Break