

ADGE CUTLER AND THE WURZELS FAN CLUB

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5, New Tynings
Lightpill
STROUD
Glos

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Hello everyone. I hope you have all been as lucky with your Bank Holiday weather as I have been in Stroud.

Now I am sure you are all ready for the latest Wurzel News, and dates. The additions to the June list are:-

25th June Puddletown, Nr. Dorchester
26th June Hankerton
3rd July Sheffield University
4th July Kington Magna, Nr. Gillingham, Dorset
10th July Chippenham
11th July Plymouth Guild Hall
" " Ronnies Club, Plymouth
12th July Callington, Nr. Plymouth
13th July Lympstone Marine Base
17th July Worcester
18th July East Budleigh
22nd July Minehead
28th July - 8th August Whitebuck, Burley, Fants

During all last week - 24th May -30th May - Adge and the Wurzels were making a very successful appearance at Witcombe Lodge, near Cheltenham, Glos. As you all know on the Monday, Tony celebrated his birthday. Before the performance, Norah Whiteman, an enthusiastic Wurzel fan, presented Tony with a stirrup, 'for urging on Tony's racing hedgehogs'. Tony wore the stirrup during the act and must have made Tommy who was standing next to him on stage, a little dubious as to his safety, as Tony moved energetically around the stage. After Adge and the Wurzels had finished their act, Tony was brought back on stage, and after an enthusiastic audience has sung 'Happy Birthday to You', a very surprised Tony was presented with a birthday cake decorated with two marzipan hedgehogs.

This may seem like a 'Tony Baylis' exclusive newsletter this month as I am also featuring Tony's musical career to date.

Tony's first contact with show business came after some years as a commercial artist. He had always been very interested in music, and whilst working in a commercial art studio, he heard that the father of one of his colleagues was the owner of a bass. This he eventually bought, and took a few lessons from a friend who had studied music.

Prior to his taking up the bass, Tony had tried his hand at playing the saxophone, and the trumpet, but with little success.

Tony's first public appearance was in 1958 at a public house in North London, where he was joined by an accordion player and an ancient drummer. In this setting Tony started to play a 'clumsy form of jazz', and it was n't long before he was approached by drummer Ian Bell, and invited to join the Ian Bell Jazzmen. Tony accepted the offer and thus became exposed to the London jazz scene.

One of Tony's first professional jobs was with the Bob Court Skiffle Group. In 1960 Tony had the enviable job of making a concert tour of Denmark with this group. Along with Tony in the Group, and making his first big stage appearance was the well known singer Long John Baldry.

In 1963 Tony formed his own band, called the 'Jazz Confessors'. The following year they were finalists in the National Jazz Federations all Britain Jazz Band Contest.

Amongst the numerous famous jazz musicians Tony has played with since, are Sandy Brown, Bruce Turner, Humphrey Littleton, Mick Mulligan, The Clyde Valley Stompers, and Acker Bilk. Whilst with the Clyde Valley Stompers Tony performed on I.T.V.'s 'Thank Your Lucky Stars' Programme. This particular programme turned out to be an historic occasion because it was the Beatles first big Hit that was featured on it.

Tony has played in a variety of places including West End night clubs, restaurants, and theatres, and during his time in cabaret, he has backed famous names like Tommy Trinder, Anne Shelton, Jayne Mansfield and others. He has also played on the passenger boats visiting such places as South Africa, Canary Islands, and the Mediteranean.

In the summer of '66 Tony joined the Bruce Turner Jump Band and played at the Antibes Jazz Festival, near Cannes.

In the summer of 1967 he joined the Temperance Seven and remained with them, performing at top cabaret clubs in the North of England, until they disbanded the following year. It was during this time with the Temperance Seven that Tony learnt to play the sousaphone. Also at this time a television play 'Majesty' by Scott Fitzgerald was being filmed and Tony and another member of the Temperance Seven were offered parts in it. Tony played the part of a musician. This play is one of a series called 'The Jazz Age', which is now being shown on B.B.C.2.

In 1968 Tony performed at the Newport Jazz Festival in America with the Alex Welsh Jazz Band. He also backed a number of American jazz musicians during his stay in America. After his return to England Tony still with the Alex Welsh Band, played on a number of well known Radio 1 programmes including 'The Tony Brandon Show', The Jimmy Young Show, Late Night Extra, and Jazz Club.

In January 1969, Tony left Alex Welsh, and joined Adge Cutler and the Wurzels. Since being with Adge Tony has taken up yet another musical instrument, the bass guitar.

Musical collection

Through the years Tony has collected quite a large number of musical instruments. They are:-

Five Basses
One Cello
Two Base Guitars
One Tuba
One Sousaphone
One Euphonium
One Valve Trombone

Tony will be very pleased to hear from anyone who knows of any Double Basses, or Cellos, which are for sale.

That's all for now,

My best Wishes to you all.

Pat