



**Northern Jazz Promoter (NJP) Meeting ~  
Sat 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 10.30am  
Zoom Meeting**

**Present:**

Steve Crocker: NJP Network Chair JazzLeeds  
Gill Wilde: NJP Network Secretary Grimsby Jazz Projects  
Judith Waterhouse: NJP Network Treasurer Wakefield Jazz  
Ben Gilbert Trustee JazzLeeds Trainee NJP scheme  
Stewart Smith Jazz North East Trainee NJP scheme  
Bob Walker Scarborough Jazz/ S. Jazz Festival  
Wesley Stevenson JNE/Newcastle Fest of Jazz & Imp Music  
Phil Lee RVJB  
Laurie Stead Huddersfield Jazz  
Richard Gentle NJP Website Manager  
Peter Fletcher Wigan Jazz Music Continuum  
Chris Bye Chief Exec, Jazz North  
Ramesh Narayanan – JazzLeeds Trustee  
Dave Ellis Hull Jazz  
Pete Rosser Wakefield Jazz  
Peter Woodman Marsden Jazz Festival  
Debra Milne The Globe and Newcastle Jazz Co-op  
Jez Matthews Lescar/Sheffield Jazz  
Jonathan Butters Parr Jazz Liverpool

**Apologies**

Hayley Jackson NQ Jazz Trainee NJP scheme  
Heather Spencer Jazz North  
Mike and Marion Gordon Scarborough Jazz  
Sue Bradley RVJB  
Simon Perryman Sheffield Jazz  
Steve Bootland Jazz at the Priestley  
Kyran Matthews NQ Jazz  
Joan Parker Jazz Co-op  
David Porter Hull Jazz Festival/J-Night  
Rosemary Holmes JazzLeeds  
Ian Darrington Wigan Jazz Music Continuum

**Item 1 Welcome - Steve Crocker.**

**Item 2 Minutes** of last quarterly zoom meeting Oct 2021 agreed to be a true record (Proposed SC, seconded GW).No Matters arising.

### Item 3 Introducing Chris Bye- new Chief Exec of Jazz North

Chris has a wealth of experience with a background working for the Arts Council, as head of talent development for private studios, a consultant and fundraiser. In his role for Jazz North he wishes to develop partnerships, diversity, networking and grant support, raising the profile of jazz in the North, developing online resources, a digital base and change the emphasis of Northern line to make it more accessible. He is aware that Jazz North is not given enough money compared to other NPOs.

Chris Suggested it was worth promoters looking at the **Music Venue Trust**

(<http://www.musicvenue trust.com>) a UK Registered Charity which acts to protect, secure and improve UK Grassroots Music Venues for the benefit of venues, communities and upcoming artists.

**Q and A** Chris agreed with *Jonathan Butters* (Parr Jazz) that Jazz north should play a key role in the development of partnerships, recognise the professionalism of promoters and that cross pollination and learning from each other was important.

A question from *Peter Fletcher* (Wigan Jazz Festival) asked about **Certificates of Sponsorship** for bringing in bands from abroad. These are needed to bring artists into the country. The CoS has to be very specific for each artist or entry will be refused. Chris said that Jazz North was working on a scheme to become a provider of CoS but bureaucratic problems meant it was taking a long time to clarify issues. He recommended the British Underground website [www.britishunderground.net](http://www.britishunderground.net) for more information. (a note from Jazz North about the proposals for CoS is attached to these minutes)

*Steve Crocker* commented that Jazz North should promote and amplify the good work being undertaken by Northern Jazz Promoters.

Chris was thanked for his contribution

- Action – clubs to note the current situation on Certificates of Sponsorship (attached)

### Item 4 Jazz Education link between jazz promoters and schools – Gill Wilde

A fruitful discussion was held about the way forward for making an ACE bid for forming links between jazz clubs and School Hubs based on a brief submitted by Gill.

*Chris Bye* suggested we need to make any ACE bid exciting for decision makers. Need to examine other sources of funding (eg Children and Young People), and check new Arts Council guidance. It would help to look at areas of low engagement and under representation. Jazz was a priority music form so this will help us. Project balance important – it was about helping musicians as well as schools. Any bid could reflect the different possible practices in different areas.

Some clubs did have contact with schools and Music Hubs and others were keen to develop them. *Ramesh Narayanan* talked about the Leeds Music Hub outreach to Specialist Schools providing music to them, and ways of feeding the children through to the Leeds Youth Jazz Orchestra. They had sent bands into schools and done follow on events. Jazz events had worked well with Special Schools.

*Peter Fletcher* commented that Wigan Youth Jazz Orchestra has its base at Wigan Jazz and had many links with schools through this.

*Debra Milne* said the Jazz Co op had no links with schools but would forward the information to Dave Wood their learning and participation officer about the new NJP project

*Pete Woodman* talked about the links Marsden Jazz Festival had with Kirklees schools

*Pete Rosser* (Wakefield) and *Phil Lee* (RVJ) both would like to work more closely with their Music Hubs

*Wes Stephenson* supported the idea and JNE could contribute

*Chris Bye* commented that funding was possible around reach out and education but funders had different objectives and these would need to be matched up. The bid would have to be focused and specific to 2 or 3 objectives. It would be worth talking it through with the Arts Council (he mentioned Richard Brown at ACE based in Leeds).

The following clubs expressed a willingness to be involved

1. Parr Jazz Liverpool
2. Wakefield Jazz
3. JazzLeeds
4. Ribble Valley
5. Jazz Co-op
6. Jazz NE

- **Action – Gill/Steve to arrange a meeting (face to face) with the above clubs to develop and write the bid.**

#### **Item 5 NJP Traineeship scheme update - Wesley Stephenson**

The Trainee scheme was launched in August. In Sept/Oct 4 interns were matched to RVJB, JazzLeeds, Wakefield and Jazz NE. There were 30 applicants. Ribble valley unfortunately had to drop out but NQ Jazz replaced them. CPD workshops had been arranged, 3 have already taken place - *Roger Wilson* Black lives matter, *Steve Mead and Heather Spencer* on ACE funding, *Steve Crocker and Sue Bradley* on community links and supporting volunteers. On the 9<sup>th</sup> Feb is a Jazz North co-promotion on Accessibility in Jazz with Guest *Natalie South-Law*.

Each month, time sheets are done and monthly reports from trainees who are all happy with the scheme. The interns are doing a funding application for a touring project to give trainees focus the have done example press sheets and researched bands. *Marcus Woolf band* has been agreed as the touring band - a Manchester 6 piece. The concerts will be in first 2 weeks September at each of the four intern venues, any other promoters interested to get in touch with Wes.

An interim report on the scheme was completed 12<sup>th</sup> November.

- **Action - any promoters interested in hosting the *Marcus Woolf band* in September to get in touch with Wes Stephenson.**

## Item 6 Roundup of events by clubs

**Steve Crocker JazzLeeds** led on the jazz festival in 2018 and 2019 and did smaller live events during lockdown restrictions. Jazzleeds had spoken to Music:Leeds, a city based support organisation about a more collaborative event post Covid with up to 10 Leeds promoters putting on concerts between 1<sup>st</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> June 2022. Venues included 7Arts, a stage in the centre of Leeds and Howard Assembly Room, Wardrobe, Belgrave, Hyde Park Book Club, Sela and Domino. JazzLeeds regular gigs and workshop season was going well with audiences recovering to pre-covid numbers. Meanwood Valley Urban Farm was their new location for jam sessions and workshops.

**Laurie Stead Huddersfield** Their Huddersfield venue was no longer suitable, but their new one was also not working satisfactorily with poor attendances; a member had an accident at one of the concerts, so future gigs have had to be cancelled until a suitable new home can be found.

**Bob Walker Scarborough** low audience numbers at the Cask mean they are struggling but they are carrying on and feel optimistic about the future. Scarborough Jazz Festival is going ahead 23-25th September led by Mike Gordon with a wide range of artists.

**Dave Ellis Hull** the club are also struggling. They have found a new home as the Goodfellowship Inn (the main venue) had quadrupled the hire fee! The working men's club on Anlaby Road has 20 plus for a players night but they will not attend the guest night, and it too far to travel from the last venue for others. The Beverley night Jazz at the Lairgate is going ahead with two alternating (trad/contemporary) session and OK attendances. There is a website [www.jazzinhull.org](http://www.jazzinhull.org) and Ray Woodcock has a [jazztastic](#) radio programme. They have a grant from Hull Council. They are one of the collaborators with David Porter's Hull Jazz Festival.

**Debra Milne Globe and Jazz Coop** They have been successful in keeping the venue going. The Sunday jazz programme is going strong. They have an April event with Arun Ghosh a co-promotion with Jazz North-East and the jazz jam sessions Take it to the Bridge on Wednesdays.

**Jez Matthews Lescar/Sheffield Jazz** Jazz at the Lescar is reopening next week - audiences are down because of distancing in the small room. The new venue at Yellow Arch is not yet working well, need to pull in a new audience. Sheffield Jazz have good audiences with a full programme up to June. Jez had a great gig with Steve Crocker last week!!

**Jonathan Butters Parr Jazz** They are building on inclusivity and diversity. Good grass roots development persuading young audiences there is a link between DJ and Dance music and Jazz (eg Mono Neon/Luke Worfield and Soweto Kinch). They have no venue of their own but have partnerships with several venues - eg Birkenhead, Future Yard, Distikt etc every club is a jazz club! They are linking up Hip hop spoken word and jazz bands and doing educational events. International Jazz festival in Liverpool (organised at Liverpool Hope University) takes place last week in February

**Pete Woodman Marsden Jazz Festival** – the 2021 festival was a success, especially the live outdoor stage with many of the artists linked to Ubuntu records and The Jazz Warriors/ Gary

Crosby. Now planning for 2022 festival. Pete was currently promoting a tour with “Under the Surface”

**Wes Stephenson Jazz North East Newcastle** 4 day science and music festival planned at Gosforth Civic Hall. – Lauren Kinsella, Jonny Hunter. Festival of Jazz and improve music planned for early October. Joint events with Jazz Co-op working well.

**Peter Fletcher Wigan Jazz Music Continuum** Average audiences 60/70 now post Covid and many new people coming along. Big band focus with Simon Spillett, Claire Martin and US singer Camille Furnan

**Judith Waterhouse: Wakefield Jazz** – full programme, audiences still lower than before Covid but distanced seating means these can be accommodated easily. Less people coming from distance but more new ones (many of whom come more than once) from local area. Programme fully booked to summer and beyond with a variety of acts

**Phil Lee : RVJB** – Ribble valley Jazz and Blues had suffered recently – their Arts Council Festival bid had been turned down (so bands had needed to be cancelled and the festival size reduced), their main programmer had unfortunately died, and they had lost their Intern trainee due to personal family reasons. However audiences at the Grand had been good for the monthly gigs and they would bounce back!

**Steve Bootland Bradford** (by email) “Like all venues, we have been much exercised as to how to make gigs as covid safe as possible. Committee members have been getting down early to sanitise tables and chairs, spacing them out to observe social distancing. This of course reduces our audience capacity (we decided 80 was a safe figure) and we now ask people to send us an email if they are planning to come to a gig. One of our members has also set up a link whereby punters can pay in advance by BACS. We did look at on-line ticketing but decided it wasn't practical. If the number of notifications/pre-payments reached 80, the contingency plan was to ask punters who just turned up on the night, to have a drink in the bar until we were sure there was going to be enough space. So far this has never been an issue as audience numbers have taken a hit. Given the age profile of our members, we suspect that concerns about covid still weigh heavy, and understandably so. But in summary, we are not in too bad a shape”

**Kyran Matthews NQJazz** by email “Myself and Emily again have to pass on our apologies for this meeting, as we work on Saturdays. It would be great if we could look at doing a doodle poll or similar to gauge people's availability ahead of scheduling the meetings, as there have been a great number now that we've been unable to attend. As a general note to pass on, we started back at the end of Jan with Julian Siegel's Quartet and are back running weekly, it's been a great season so far. Numbers are still a little down on where we would expect, but starting to come back up. Something to raise with everyone is perhaps what we can do to help support *Refujazz next weekend at Heart in Leeds*, as it's such a great event for a great cause - I believe they're streaming everything so perhaps organisations can share information on this in any mailers etc., and share the streams on their social media channels”

## **Item 6 Finance Judith Waterhouse**

Since the start of our financial year (1.10.21) NJP have paid out of the general account 150 to the webmaster for services. Costs for the website have been £229.83. We have paid an additional £475 to change the website from NorVol to Northern Jazz Promoters. Subs received by 3/2/22:

- Grimsby Jazz Projects
- Dove Jazz Club
- Scarborough Jazz and Jazz Festival
- JATP, Bradford
- Jazz Leeds
- Wakefield Jazz

Also received a contributions of £150 from both Grimsby Jazz projects and Jazz Leeds as a contribution to the costs of changing the website.

- **Actions – can othr clubs please pay their subs for 2022 to Judith (£50 for over 10 concerts per year £10 for up to 10 concerts per year)**

#### **Item 7 Richard Gentle Website ([www.northerjazzpromoters.org](http://www.northerjazzpromoters.org))**

The new website was now up and running. Richard said he adds gigs approximately 1 month in advance so please let him know of any changes. He just includes members in the gig list. Because he goes to members' websites to 'harvest' gigs, there's no need to send him listings unless a gig is missing, or has changed.

#### **Item 8 AOB**

##### **Low Carbon Jazz idea - Jonathan Butters Parr Jazz**

Jonathan introduced his idea for a grass-roots-led city/region to city/region exchange initiative for jazz artists and ensembles to travel by train and/or bus and play with a reduced carbon footprint. The concept included

- Local promoters provide backline and heavy equipment, venue and accommodation
- A number of artists/ensembles, representative of a city/region scene travel and play a mini festival in another participating city/region
- Audience also encouraged to choose low carbon means of travel to attend
- Events are filmed and streamed behind a pay wall – (TBC as streaming has a surprisingly high carbon footprint)
- Sponsors could have interests in sustainability, low carbon tech, etc.

The next task is to agree on Aims and Objectives and what the legacy might be.

- **Action - Jonathan to circulate a note asking for which promoters were interested in becoming involved**

#### **Date of Next Meetings**

The proposed date was Saturday **April 16 on Zoom**. After that we would look at going back live for meetings – provisionally during the **Leeds Jazz Festival in June** and **Newcastle Festival of Jazz and Improvised Music in October**.

*Some people found Saturday mornings a difficult time. Steve to ask people to see if there was a better time for the next meet-up.*