

Louis Lince



Born 22nd July 1942 in St. Helens, Lancashire.

Musician (Banjo, Electric Guitar, Bass Drum), Bandleader, Parade Marshall, Reviewer of CDs and Publisher of 'New Orleans Music'. First paid Engagement in Stockport (1957) with Red Devils Skiffle Group. Upon moving to North London in 1958, played with the Colne Walley Six and the Memphis City Jazz Band.

Left music in 1963 for business reasons and returned to semi-pro scene in 1974 as member of Mac's (the late Gordon Mackay) New Orleans Band with Colin Bowden and Dave Bailey.

Became full time musician in 1988, having formed Louis Lince's New Orleans Band in 1986, which continues to perform in various formats.

In 2002 Louis relocated back to the North-West and settled in Romiley, Stockport. In 2005 joined the Savannah Jazz Band following the retirement of Jack Cooper through ill-health.

Over the last 30 years Louis has played with all the names in the New Orleans Jazz World and is a much sought after and much respected musician.

Further information can be found on Louis' own website <http://www.louislince.co.uk>

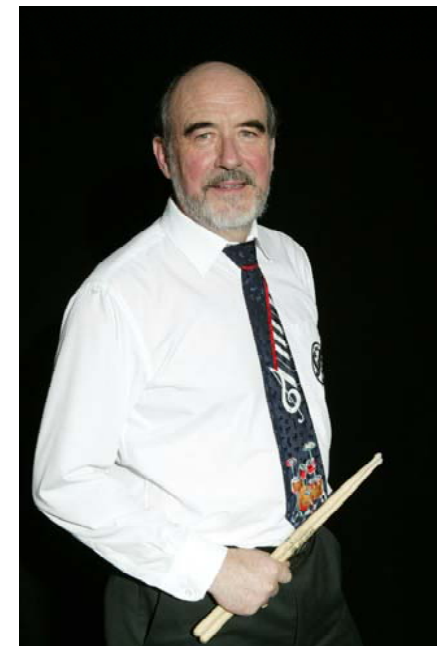
Rod Chambers

Rod first visited New Orleans in 1972 and has been there 6 times since then. He has accompanied on tour in the UK such American jazz greats as Alton Purnell, Thomas Jefferson, Louis Nelson, Wallace Davenport and Wingy Manone. Rod started playing in the early 60's with Jeff Milner in Yorkshire before moving to Manchester to join The Ged Hone Ragtime Band. Rod then helped form the Dave Donohoe Band in 73, moved to London in 77 and joined Mike Casimirs New Iberia Stompers and remained with Mike until the band broke up in 1985 when the first 'Joymakers' were formed. More recently Rod had a stint with Colin Kingwells Jazz Bandits for 7 years before re-forming the current 'Joymakers'. Rod has very 'catholic' musical tastes and listens to classical music to relax and claims to be a frustrated R&B man at heart. Influences are as varied as Capn John Handy to Ben Webster, George Lewis to Barney Bigard. Rod plays however with a fire and enthusiasm which is strictly his own style. Joined the Savannah Jazz Band in January 2006



THE SAVANNAH JAZZ BAND

John Meehan (Leader)



Born November 1939 in Halifax, West Yorkshire where he has lived all his life, John is the leader of the band and is responsible for bookings, administration and general public relations. His work load is onerous and often thankless and the rest of the band know they are very fortunate to have his unstinting efforts.

Originally inspired by Gene Krupa in the film 'The Benny Goodman Story' John took up drumming playing in local Skiffle Groups, Dance Bands, and a Pantomime Pit Orchestra. During this work he met Terry Mellor, the originator of The Savannah Jazz Band and joined the band in 1979.

When not involved in band work, John enjoys walking, hill climbing, swimming and the occasional tittle of Malt Whisky.
January 2006

Tony Pollitt



Born on the western side of the Pennines in February 1940, Tony started his present spell with The Savannah Jazz Band in 1990.

He started his 'musical career' at the age of 13 learning to play the clarinet until at the age of 16 and several instruments later he had progressed to the T-Chest bass in a pub skiffle group.

He joined The Dallas Jazz Band using a borrowed bass held together with chicken wire, glue and six inch nails. He purchased his present bass using 'engagement ring money' thus postponing that event.

He next joined Mike Pembroke's Hot Seven before becoming one of many musicians who passed through the various Keith Pendlebury formats, his spell with this band lasting 8 years.

Tony's musical career has seen many interruptions due to business commitments but in amongst these he had spells with the Smoky City Jazz Band, Ged Hone's Big Four and his first 12 month spell with The Savannah Jazz Band following the death of Terry Mellor, the band's founder.

Brian 'Sam' Ellis

Born Wakefield, West Yorkshire, in January 1939, Brian or 'Sam' as he is commonly known, joined The Savannah Jazz Band in 1988.

Playing both the trombone and piano Sam's playing experience is impressive.

He started playing about 1959 having heard a George Lewis recording which started the whole thing off. He bought his first trombone for £3-10s-0d (£3.50 in new money) and started playing to records. He heard the Humphrey Lyttelton band at Leeds Town Hall and was encouraged to form a band - 'The Maryland Jazzmen' which lasted for about 10 years including his National Service years.

Other bands Sam has played in include The Yorkshire Jazz Band, Malcolm Webb's famous New Orleans Jazz Band. The Yorkshire Post Jazz Band, Dave Brennan's Jubilee Jazz Band, Chris Blount's New Orleans Jazz Band (including 5 tours of Sweden), the famous Heppy's Kalahari Bushmen and the Wakefield Arms Jazz Band.

He has played all over Britain, and in Canada, Germany, Holland, Majorca, and Scandinavia.



Bill Smith



Born in Stockport, where until the 1960's a principal industry was hat making, his first band, which he joined at the age of 18, was appropriately The Jazz Hatters led by clarinettist Roy Rogers.

National service in the RAF was followed by periods with the Dallas Jazz Band and the Mike Pembroke Hot Seven. During the mid 1960's he was involved with big band and dance band work but returned to the traditional jazz scene in 1969 with the Manchester based Smoky City Jazz. He became leader of the band in the 80's and for years the band has enjoyed great popularity within the Northern Jazz scene and Holland and Germany.

Bill, who lives in Romiley, is the perfect lead for any band and he plays well as part of the team or on solos. His humour on the 'mike' and his way of involving the audience ensures everyone enjoys a good night's jazz.

Bill mainly plays the cornet but is just as adept on the trumpet, flugelhorn, trombone, and harmonica and his vocals are always enthusiastically received.

His excellent technique and versatility means that he is in great demand for dep. work with various styles of band.

He lists Humphrey Lyttelton, Harry James, Wild Bill Davison, Muggsy Spanier, Pat Halcox and Alex Welsh as main influences on his style.

Bill's main work load is playing with the Savannah but he still has regular work with several local bands.