

Thank you Ann Kerrison

I am writing this listening to one of my (and I'm pretty sure Ann's) favourite Jazzers - the great tenor saxophonist, John Coltrane.

Enid and I started going to the Jazz Appreciation Group about 8 years ago when we used to meet in Anne Dale's home with Peter as tutor, and Ann Kerrison was group leader. We were welcomed warmly into the group by Ann K, and with Pete's vast knowledge of the Jazz scene we spent many a happy afternoon, listening to some great music and enriching our knowledge of this wonderful Genre.

The pandemic in 2020 brought an interruption to our meetings, and once the sessions resumed, for various reasons we didn't immediately rejoin the group until 2023. By the time we did Ann was hosting our monthly meetings in her lovely house, and Martin Creasey had taken on the mantle of tutor - although it was hardly a class - just a cosy coming together of like minded friends sharing in some of our favourite music - Martin sharing with us some great Jazz recordings, and Ann sharing her home and hospitality - always a lovely cuppa, decent biscuit, sometimes a slice of Marion's delicious home made cake. Ann had brought together a wonderfully welcoming group, some of us with little knowledge of the technicalities and intricacies of the music, and others with a more in-depth knowledge, but all united by a love for the artistic talents of Louis Armstrong, Miles Davis, Charlie Parker, Bill Evans, Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holliday, "Cannonball" Adderley, Gerry Mulligan, Chris Barber (a favourite of Martin's), and many more.

All of this came together because of Ann's love for the music, her generosity in inviting us into her home, and her organisational skills.

Ann also organised an annual "end of term" lunch at a local restaurant - always an enjoyable event. Christmas didn't go unmarked - celebrated with a special meeting in the festive season - who knew there were so many great Jazzy Christmas tracks?

But sadly all good things must come to an end, and Ann has decided that the time has come to stand down as leader of our group, and no longer be able to offer home as a venue. For the last couple of months we have been desperately trying to find a suitable home for the group, but sadly we have failed to come up with anything that fits the bill, and more importantly fits in with Martin's schedule.

So for the time being the Jazz Appreciation Group has left the building, but who knows that at some time it may be able to make a comeback.

It only remains to say from all the members, past and present of our lovely group, a big and heartfelt Jazzy thank you to Ann for everything she has achieved over the years. It was always a bit sad when our afternoons came to an end, so in the words of the great Ella Fitzgerald (courtesy of Cole Porter)

"Every time we say goodbye....."

Thanks Ann, its been great