

REVIEW PAGE

Louise Lacey, Freelance contributor to The Bucks Free Press "Freetime" section enjoyed the gig on February 14th..



A VALENTINE'S DAY JAZZ SPECIAL

The Royal British Legion Hall was packed to capacity last Tuesday as the Marlow Jazz Club had managed to secure a date with the highly acclaimed quintet that pays tribute to the music of Miles Davis. "Standard Miles" has a front line of the award winning tenor saxophonist Simon Spillett and trumpet and flugelhorn star Henry Lowther, with a "dream" rhythm section of John Critchinson, piano; Dave Green, bass and Trevor Tompkins on drums. They delighted the crowd with a programme of tunes associated with Davis during his 1950s / 60s period, and, in view of the date, "My Funny Valentine" was an obvious choice. "If I Were A Bell", "Seven Steps To Heaven" and "On Green Dolphin Street" were also outstanding. Playing close to the microphone, with Harmon mute, Henry's trumpet came very close to Miles' famous trade mark sound. John Critchinson coaxed some nice notes from the Club's relatively new piano on his solo piece, the Victor Feldman arrangement of "Baby, Won't You Please Come Home". Simon joked with the audience about his reputation for often playing at dynamic tempos, and he finally let loose on just one number, a fast and furious rendition of "Autumn Leaves", swopping choruses with Henry's trumpet. A highly enjoyable evening ended with the best known tune on Miles' classic "Kind Of Blue" album – it was of course "All Blues". Many of those present rated this as one of the best ever Marlow Jazz Club gigs.

Louise Lacey