

TALES FROM THE WOODS

Newsletter No. 1

January 2001

I'd like to begin this Newsletter by thanking everyone on behalf of Lee and myself for the near-capacity turnout for **James Hunter and the Jokers** plus **The Houserockers** on December 16th at the Buzz Bar on the occasion of Lee Wilkinson's 50th birthday bash. A hugely successful evening indeed.

The following Wednesday (the 20th), Tony and I called into the Buzz Bar to discuss business and within minutes I was approached by Barry who, obviously pleased with the takings on the Saturday in question, asked if I was all set and ready to go for January 27th. I replied that I was and that I was, at present, in negotiation and will contact him once confirmed.

Whilst at work the following day (Thursday) I contacted James Hunter and he was keen to play the venue again. I also spoke to our friend Ralph Edwards and we talked at considerable length about the possibility of bringing his band to London to play the Buzz Bar. Ralph seemed very keen on the idea with the added attraction of free accommodation at the hotel "Queen Anne" and even the likely possibility of having folk guitarist **Wizard** and near-hermit **Davey Graham** as a special guest star act. Also, a feeler was sent out with a view to a gig with **Wee Willie Harris and the Alabama Slammers** sometime in the near future.

Tony Papard spoke to "Mrs East Dulwich" on my behalf after being given the run-around by her for several weeks concerning bringing **Linda Gail Lewis** back to the Buzz Bar once her commitments with Van Morrison have ceased.

So, with everything looking so good, I contacted the Buzz Bar on Saturday (23rd) to confirm the James Hunter booking and was immediately advised by Barry that all future

gigs were out of the question because of problems with a music licence and a letter he had received from the council. Bearing in mind that Saturday the 16th was a private party and considering the amount of gigs that have taken place since April, it simply doesn't tally up.

During a space of four days, the Buzz Bar management have done a complete about turn.

When Tony and I called into the Buzz Bar on the Wednesday in question, there were five people in the pub which included the two of us and a hired barman, so what's the problem?

As far as I am concerned, the Buzz Bar management are impossible to do business with, but should you wish to enquire further, please feel free to contact **Barry or Michael at the Buzz Bar, 136 Battersea High Street, telephone 020 7207 3895.**

Meanwhile, I intend to book **James Hunter and the Jokers** for the Selhurst Railway Club if possible in early February. As most of you will know, Selhurst Railway Club is only available to me for mid-week gigs. Therefore, Kats and Kittens, if you should hear, see or know about a pub which could be used for gigs, bearing in mind that I live in Bromley and work at Clapham Junction, a suitable distance for Central London north/south of the river, I would indeed be grateful to hear from you.

May I end this Newsletter by thanking you for all your support and help over the past eight months for the gigs/record hops at the Buzz Bar and very much look forward to future presentations wherever they might be.

Keith Woods