



## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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## **A FLAVOUR OF NEW ORLEANS**

Dan Forshaw Quartet pay homage to the birthplace of jazz

### **Outline**

'Jazz grew up on a million different streets but it was born in New Orleans.'

The award winning Villa hotel in Wrea Green welcomes back the Dan Forshaw Quartet on Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> February for a special evening entitled "New Orleans Rum and Gumbo Jazz!." With the winter chill and the credit crunch biting hard, promoter of the events Dan Forshaw decided it was time to bring in another of his great loves (food) into the jazz mix! The idyllic country house hotel in Wrea Green will undergo a transformation in order to prepare for this "Mardi Gras event" designed to stimulate all your senses! New Orleans cuisine is famous the world over for its amalgamation of French, Italian and Creole flavours and the Villa's head chef, Mark Bancroft has prepared many Louisiana favourites including a special genuine "Gumbo" stew for the event.

### **Body**

To many New Orleans or 'Trad.' jazz has been the main stay of local musicians of a particular vintage, but Dan hopes that the faithful arrangements of his band will excite music fans across the spectrum. Dan says, "One of the most important lessons that I learnt while studying jazz music is that one must always respect your tradition. Whilst we have tended to play a more modern jazz style at the Villa we have always done that in respect of the music, and what has come before it." Dan cites his mentor international jazz star Branford Marsalis, himself a Louisiana native as a big influence in playing traditional as well as modern jazz in his concerts.

Jazz events at the Villa are booked throughout 2009 and take place on the first Friday of each month. Next month sees the return of Chris Smith on trumpet to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the recording of Miles Davis' *Kind of Blue*, before another favour filled jazz event with Italian guitarist Willy Fluss on Friday, April 3rd.

The event starts at 8pm and finishes late. The events are free entry and you are advised to arrive early in order to guarantee yourself seating.

ENDS

### **Further information for editors**

1. The Villa runs a monthly jazz event on the first Friday of each month (except December) and it is promoted by Dan Forshaw who was brought back into the Villa in July 2008 by new manager Stewart Macintosh. Dan had previously promoted a highly successful series of jazz nights at the venue over four seasons from 2003.
2. Dan Forshaw is a professional musician and educator originally from the Blackpool area. He now performs and teaches across the world and has released seven albums under his own name. His music has been called "*cool, clever and creative*" and he is regarded by critics as "*one of the leading young lights on the British jazz scene.*"