

Spotlight on Brittany: Out & About

Fest Jazz

Presenter	If you like jazz, you'll love this. Elaine Agrell has been out and about in Châteauneuf-du-Faou, finding out about their Fest Jazz in July from Trevor Stent.
Elaine	The festival at Châteauneuf-du-Faou is coming up and you have been instrumental in putting this together.
Trevor	Because the monthly sessions at the Tal Ar Pont were so successful from 2003 onwards, we thought it'd be an ideal spot to organise a festival, but a festival where people could walk from one stage to another, listening to various bands in the most idyllic spot, because the river Châteauneuf is really, really beautiful and there are four stages around the bridge. You can wander from one stage to another, listening to fabulous music in fabulous countryside, holding a drink.
Elaine	How do you decide who to invite to participate?
Trevor	It's not just the band that decides, there's an association that organises the festival and, in fact, organises the jazz, is now Association Jazz Kreiz Breizh. The members of that association from September / October onwards think of the sort of music that we'd like in the festival. We try to encourage young bands and we have a variety of styles from the traditional jazz that Good Time Jazz play right through to sort of bebop and modern jazz. How do we choose the groups? The wonderful thing about being musicians is that we often see groups in our travels that we know are going to be good and we can recommend them to the association to take. And we listen to CD's - it's extraordinary as coordinator of the festival, I receive at least 20 demands for candidature for artists appearing at the festival every day. Unfortunately we can't take everybody, because many of them are very, very good.
Elaine	Do you have to have rehearsals beforehand, in order to get the running of it working?
Trevor	The organisation - oh it's a nightmare - yes absolute nightmare, but we start early - but the last 2 years we've had students come and help us, who are on work experience and this year we've got Aurianne, She's been very useful in all the communications that have to be done.
Elaine	So how long does the festival actually last ?

Trevor	It lasts 3 days. It starts on... this year on Friday July the 30 th . There's a dinner / dance at the hotel Relais de Cornouaille in the centre of Châteauneuf. There, there's a band from England – Blue Magnolia, with a pianist, James Compton, who is absolutely fantastic. Then there's the Saturday night – jazz in the town, free in the afternoon and then, in the evening there's a dance at the community centre, the Salle Ar Sterenn. And then Sunday is the big day with jazz next to the river on the 4 stages.
Elaine	How do you organise accommodation for people coming from England ?
Trevor	A nightmare – we booked - the hotel in Châteauneuf was obviously completely booked, all the bed & breakfast is almost completely booked. Gîtes in the area? If anyone's got accommodation available for the festival, we'd be very interested to know, but get in touch.
Elaine	So that's ?
Trevor	30 th July, 31 st July and the 1 st of August – Sunday 1 st of August is the big festival.
Elaine	So that's a note for everyone to put in their diaries.
Trevor	Please do... and do come along. You don't have to be manic jazz fans in order to enjoy the day. There's plenty of other activities and this year there's also a salon d'artisanale.
Elaine	Well, I think this year is a particular... festival, in a way, because it's a tribute to Younger Rhinehardt and the Quintette of the Hot Club de France.
Trevor	That's right, it's the 100 th anniversary of his birth. We have as the stars of the festival this year on the Sunday a group Florin Niculescu, a Romanian violinist, absolute virtuoso and he's there with Chistian Escoudé, one of the best jazz manouche guitarists in France and it really is the celebration of the hot club of France.
Elaine	Well I'm looking forward very much to attending.

