



A combination of Jazz classics like Bill Withers, contemporary soul from Welsh songstress Duffy and some fantastic original material can only mean one thing... A.O.B.

This five-piece Jazz/blues inspired band have decades of musical experience to draw on and are stunning local crowds with their talent, so we decided to ask them a few questions:

Where did the name AOB come from?

Jane: We first met when we worked together at Pearl in Peterborough. AOB, or 'Any Other Business', is always the last thing on the agenda for any business meeting and, for us, music was an end of work activity where we could let our hair down.

How long have you been together?

Jane: We've been singing together as AOB for a couple of years, starting out as an acoustic duo with Jules on guitar. From the start, we found our voices fitted together well with harmonies coming naturally. We both love music with a jazz and blues influence, which is the main focus for us.

As a band what do you get from performing live?

Jules: We get a real buzz from performing live - it's got to be the biggest adrenaline rush you can get. We're lucky to have lots of support locally and the real thrill comes when people in the crowd shout out to hear their favourite songs. It's great to see them singing along and dancing.

New members, how did that come about?

Jane: Over the past couple of years we've had the privilege of playing with a number of fantastic musicians - acoustic and 'plugged' - and all of them have added something different to our music. Our new line up came about quite by accident really - Jules and I have known Fozzy, John

and Mike for some time and have jammed together occasionally, but nothing formal. Then, when we were booked to do a gig as an acoustic duo in February, we asked the guys if they fancied joining us. One rehearsal later, we were up on stage and, well, I guess you just know when something is right!

The driving force behind the band's original material is Jules Morgan, where is her inspiration from?

Jules: I started writing songs three years ago, inspired mostly by life's experiences, love, life and the love of music and writing - telling your story through music and lyrics can be great therapy. Jane and I have also written some songs together where Jane has brought the lyrics to the table and I've composed the music. Our originals are pretty varied, from Square Peg, which really rocks, to 22 Hours and Lynton Road which are pure jazz! It's an amazing feeling when people say they want to hear more of our originals and we usually include three or four originals in our set.

How do you decide what songs to cover?

Jane: We're keen to achieve a good balance of well-loved classics and contemporary music and are always open to suggestions. The latest addition to the set is 'Mercy' by Duffy, a fab soul number. If we hear something we like, we work out the chords and lyrics then Jules and I run through it. To be honest, we know pretty quickly if something is going to work or not and, if it seems like a goer, we'll take it along to the band and see how it comes together. We enjoy covering Amy Winehouse because the music suits our style and her lyrics are pretty bold which, in a way, suits our personalities!

So where can people see you on stage?

Jane: We're looking to do a gig a month,

possibly two. We've got a few coming up including the BMF Charity Show at The Plough in Farcet Fen on 19 April, The Glass Onion on 3 May, The Brewery Tap on 4 July and The Fayre Spot and Goodly in Bretton on 25 July.

Jules Morgan

Vocals and Rhythm guitar
Playing guitar for 35 years, singing from the age of 3! Writing songs (properly) for 3 years

Top 3 musical influences

George Michael, Stevie Wonder, Barry White

Jane Smith

Vocals, Alto Sax and occasional trumpet
Been singing various different types of music for 25 years and playing sax for 18 months.

Top 3 musical influences (bands/artists)

Ella Fitzgerald, Elvis Costello, Amy Winehouse

Mike Fowler, AKA 'Blues Mike'

Bass guitar
Playing music for 42 years

top 3 musical influences

Chet Atkins, Robert Johnson, Eric Clapton

Thorin 'Fozzy' Dixon

Drums
Playing music for 32 years

top 3 musical influences

Led Zeppelin, The Beatles, Frank Zappa

John Moseley

Percussion
Playing music for 48 years

top 3 musical influences

The Beatles, Joe Morello, Art Blakey and the Jazz Messengers

An up-to-date list of gigs is available on our website at www.aobmusic.co.uk