**Jump, Jive and Wail
*Big Jive All Dayer 2020 – review and photographs by Peter Lewry***

For the eighth year in a row The Jive Aces bought their own style of music to the 12-hour Big Jive All-Dayer event at the Assembly Hall in Worthing and, as in previous years, it was an amazing day.

Formed back in 1989 when Ian Clarkson and Peter Howell, friends from Billericay School, enlisted Ken Smith, John Fordham, Vince Hurley and Alex Douglas to form a six-piece swing band who were semi-finalists in *Britain’s Got Talent* and have gone on to release over ten albums, toured the world and worked with a wide range of artists. Once again, they assembled a number of talented and varied singers and musicians.

Sarah Mai had started her career performing music from the 1940s but soon developed a wider taste and her shows, with her band The Rhythm Riots, now combine rockabilly, rock ‘n’ roll and blues. Guitarist Jim Knowler, a member of the rock/retro swing band Bamboozle who had played at a previous All-Dayer, joined them on stage and his playing never ceases to amaze me and would be one of many highlights later in the evening. They were the first live act on the bill and entertained with great performances of *Ain’t Gonna Hush*, *Tough Lover*, *5-10-15 Hours*, made famous by Ruth Brown, *This Train* and Ray Charles *Hallelujah, I Love Her*.

Stevie & The Shakedown followed and are an authentic 40s/50s jump-blues band and their performance took you back to the days of juke-joints, lindy hop and Cadillac’s with their mix of rhythm & blues, rock ‘n’ roll and jump blues.

The ever-increasing crowd were then treated to some authentic 1940s/1950s Western Swing courtesy of the 5-piece Hadacol Hotshots. Highlights from their set included *Blue Days Black Nights*, *One Woman Man*, *Catty Town* and *Call Me Lonesome*. They were joined on stage by Lew Lewis who treated the audience to his takes on *Trouble Bound*, *Danger At My Door* and *Hey Good Looking*. Vocalist Shana Mae-Brown has her own band, The Mayhem, but she was a guest on the show and joined The Hotshots for her own brand of music treating the audience to fine performances of *Little Bit Lonesome*, *Sugar In The Tank* and *All That’s Left*. They ended their set with a western swing version of Bill Haley’s *See You Later Alligator*.

Dressed in their trademark yellow suits The Jive Aces took to the stage, Ian with his cup of hot tea, for a set that would also see many guests coming on and off-stage to join them. Fans of Louis Prima, Louie Jordan and other acts from the forties and fifties they performed many songs from that era but also some of their own songs. On stage for most of their act was saxophone player Charlotte Beattie and trumpet player Antonio Socci.

Opening their act with *Jive Jive Jive* they treated the audience to a mix of classics and their own material with highlights being Louis Prima’s *Just A Gigolo*, *L-O-V-E*, *Too Darn Hot*, *Bring Me Sunshine*, *Beyond The Sea* and many more.

Grazia Clarkson is not only a lovely person but a talented accordion player whose playing on the excellent Dean Martin classic *That’s Amore* was received enthusiastically by an appreciative audience. She also has a great sense of fun which was demonstrated well with the playful exchange between her and Ian.

All the way from Australia was Kara Jean Lane, an actress and vocalist who has appeared on stage in musicals such as *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Evita* and *Oliver*, and joined them for a number of songs including *Hey Boy Hey Girl*, *Anything You Can Do*, *Sing Sing Sing* and the Disney classic *I Wanna Be Like You*, from *The Jungle Book*. Some great banter between Ian and Kara preceded the song with Kara doing a great impression of a kookaburra. A great set but it wasn’t the last time the enthusiastic crowd would be treated to their great musicianship.

Gina Haley is the youngest child of rock and roll pioneer Bill Haley and formed the Gina Haley Band, playing concerts in her home state of Texas. Backed by the Jive Aces she treated the audience to a great set covering rock ‘n’ roll, blues and more with some of the highlights being *See See Rider*, *Tear Drops*, *Mama She Treats Your Daughter Mean* and a rousing version of the Leiber & Stoller gospel classic *Saved* before ending her show with, what else but, *Rock Around The Clock* on which Jim Knowler recreated Danny Cedrone’s legendary guitar solo.

Most of the artists were still around for the finale which saw them all fill the stage for a lively version of one of Louis Prima’s signature songs, *Jump, Jive And Wail*, a fitting end to an amazing day.

Between acts the music kept flowing courtesy of DJs Eight Beat Mac, Swing Out Si and Swinging Rocking Daddy who played a selection of classic records.

However, the music isn’t the only thing that makes the Big Jive All-Dayer such an enjoyable and successful event. The audience, many of whom dress in vintage style ranging from 1940s fashion, pin-up and military uniforms, are a joy to watch as they danced and jived the day (and night) away.

I want to end by thanking all the artists for not only a fantastic time but for their kindness throughout the day. I had a chance to meet all the artists who were happy to spend time talking and having photos taken. Special thanks go to Ian Clarkson and Grazia Clarkson for organising such a wonderful event and inviting me along to cover the day. I look forward to Summertime Swing in August and another 12-hous of music and dancing in 2021.