

# LEGENDARY LADIES OF JAZZ



as performed by **Susan Valliant Speer**

Saturday 29 October 2011 at Great Houghton Village Hall at 7.30

The Legendary Ladies of Jazz is a brand new show starring Susan Valliant Speer and her band. Susan will be singing the songs of many of the greatest jazz divas of the 20<sup>th</sup> century from Bessie Smith to Ella Fitzgerald in her own dynamic and entertaining style. The show tells the story of each woman's life and times through their music, and features some of their best known songs. Other ladies performed will include Peggy Lee, Nina Simone, Sophie Tucker and Billie Holiday. Don't miss this musical journey through the lives of these great women.

Susan's four piece band is headed up by musical director Alan Houghton on piano who also arranges many of Susan's songs. Alan studied music at The Royal Academy of Music.

From the USA, Susan Valliant Speer began her jazz career singing in the west coast jazz scene with the Uptown Lowdown Jazz Band of Seattle Washington. With them, she appeared in jazz festivals throughout America including the Sacramento Dixieland Jubilee, Central City Colorado, St. Louis Jazz Festival, Pismo Beach and The Bessie Smith Memorial Jazz Festival. She moved to Atlanta, Georgia where she worked with legendary coronet player Ernie Carson and his band. Since moving to the UK, she has worked with many top UK bands including The Pete Allen Jazz Band, The Mike Kemp Trio, 'Sir' Alan's Jazz Band, and The Rascals of Rhythm. She has appeared at many UK festivals including The Birmingham Jazz Festival, The Keswick Jazz Festival and several appearances at The Upton Jazz Festival. One of her greatest honours came when she was invited to sing in the White House for President Bill Clinton for the annual Christmas celebration, The Pageant of Peace. Susan can also be heard on BBC Radio Northampton regularly with Bernie Keith on the morning show. She is the jazz specialist and reports on the jazz scene around Northamptonshire.

We have seen her several times at the Monday evening Jazz Night in Olney's Café Brio. I know you will really enjoy her popular performance.

Please avoid disappointment and book early via Rosie or David Heath (890215) as many tickets (£8 each) have been requested already and the show has not been advertised yet.