

PRESS RELEASE – STOMPIN’ ON THE QUOMPS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – 2nd June 2017

Popular Christchurch jazz festival wins Queen's Award for Voluntary Service

Stompin’ on the Quomps, a smooth jazz music festival on Christchurch Quay, has today (2nd June 2017) received The Queen’s Award for Voluntary Service.

The award, also known as The Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award, is an annual prize given to groups in the voluntary sector of the UK. It is equivalent to an MBE and is the highest award that can be made to a voluntary group.

Now in its 23rd year, Stompin’ on the Quomps is one of Christchurch’s most popular events, providing a programme of local and major-name bands performing Soul-Latin jazz, Blues and Big Band Swing throughout the afternoon and evening on the first Saturday in August each year. This year’s event takes place on Saturday 5th August.

Adrian Dwyer, Chairman and co-founder of the event comments: “The first concert in 1994 attracted a handful of people and a dog. Last year over 6,000 came to the event, from toddlers to nonagenarians, all enjoying the music and the party atmosphere.

“One reason the event has become so successful is because we make no charge for entry. This means anyone in the community, irrespective of their financial background, has the opportunity to hear quality music that would otherwise cost around £30-£50 per ticket or more.

“Organising the event is a major undertaking and with increasing regulation and pressure on funding, it is increasingly challenging to keep it going. It takes over 1,000 man-hours and a lot of blood, sweat and tears, to run the festival, so to be recognised by The Queen is a huge honour and helps to spur us on to keep Stompin’ alive for the enjoyment of the whole community.”

ENDS

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Photo attachment: Adrian Dwyer (far left) and the Stompin' on the Quomps organising committee at the Christchurch Quay bandstand (taken on Tuesday 30 May 2017).

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w2kcj7lni2et0no/AAB4xNF3BhYZ-C5AbPlcdCWva?dl=0>

Notes to Editors

Stompin' on the Quomps is non-ticketed (free to enter), although attendees are invited to make donations, which are shared between a chosen charity and the future running of the festival.

Situated in the picturesque surroundings of Christchurch Quay, it is now one of the largest jazz festivals of its kind in the Country.

Location: Christchurch, Dorset. BH23 1BY