

## SCOTTISH GROUP MEETING

**28 January 2017**

Take careful note of the date. It's significant for only one reason: our presenter, Ken Jobling, had set himself the slightly bizarre challenge of finding enough recordings on his shelves to produce a programme entirely comprising 78s recorded "On This Day", on or about the 28th January.

While this resulted in an inevitably somewhat random selection, Ken is particularly strong on jazz and presented his selection in chronological order. Hence we heard an interesting, if slightly unusual, demonstration of the development of jazz from the Original Dixieland Jazz Band (*Dixieland Jass Band One-step*, 1917 – this one, exceptionally, recorded in February) to his namesake, Ken "Snakehips" Johnson, *I'm in Love for the Last Time*, London, 29 January 1940. Along with the jazz, we had a smattering of other interesting offerings, including Sophie Tucker, Paul Robeson and Al Bowlly.

As we heard recordings a year apart for every year between 1923 and 1930, it was particularly striking to hear the improvement in the arrangements, the benefits of electrical recording and the inclusion of jazzy solos, with a few appearances of Bix Beiderbecke.

Everyone present enjoyed themselves and my own favourite was American spiritual and cabaret singer, Zaidee Jackson, giving a jazzy rendition of *Taint No Sin* in 1930 (London, on 27 January).

This was a surprisingly large programme and the inclusion of 18 sides recorded "On This Day" suggests that Ken may have a collection of 18 x 365 or approximately 7,000 records. Judging by what I saw on a recent visit to his modest sized Edinburgh home, that would be about right!

**David Bleiman**