

MART RODGER
MANCHESTER JAZZ
NEWSLETTER NO. 61
DECEMBER 2009

RADIO CUMBRIA:

We received an e-mail from a Radio Cumbria listener telling us he had heard a track from "Allmart" on one of their programmes on a recent Sunday night. He liked the sound of it and ordered a copy which he will have received by now! We have been in touch with Sally Moon, who presented the programme and she said she would be interested in having more of our CDs, so a few of them have been sent to her. We look forward to hearing if any more are played on Radio Cumbria. If your local Radio Station has a jazz programme, please let us know so that we can offer our recordings to them.

THOMSON "DESTINY" CRUISE:

The band will be playing on this Transatlantic Cruise again starting on 11th April. We fly to Dominican Republic, then visit Tortola, St. Maarten, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia, Barbados, Tenerife, Madeira, Gibraltar, Cartagena, Ibiza Town, Barcelona, to end in Palma, Majorca, and will fly home on 1st May.

NIGEL CRETNEY – CHRIS PENDLEBURY—DRUMS: As you know, Nigel has had a lot of health problems in the last few years since he retired from his "day job". He was unable to fly to Vancouver with us in October 2008 and it was not possible for him to join us on the cruise earlier this year. Chris Pendlebury has been kind enough to fill in for Nigel, often at very short notice, on a regular basis – in fact he has played almost every gig with the band since March. Mart has now asked him to become our regular drummer. Nigel is quite a lot better since his heart operation and has said he would like to be the "dep" when Chris should be away. Most people remember Chris's Dad, trombonist Alan Pendlebury, and Uncle, Keith Pendlebury, pianist.

RON BARKER (Trumpet): A recent phone call to Mart at home was the start of a surprising weekend of memories! Ron Barker, who lives in Essex, called to say he was in the area and would love to see the band. He mentioned that he had played with a very early band of Mart's, "The Hounds of Sound". This band was Mart's first band after his National Service when he returned from Cyprus and Egypt in 1956. We arranged to meet Ron, and his wife Brenda, at the gig at Buile Hill Park in Salford. Janet had a look through her memorabilia files to find a "Jazz Notes" column from the Stockport Advertiser dated 26th September 1956 which was written by our old friend Doug Jackson! The personnel of the band were listed in this article, which included John Mayall on piano and guitar and a certain Miss Janet Bazley playing banjo. Alan Hare was on trombone, Nev Matthews played bass, and the drummer was Pete Ward who went on to join John in his professional band, John Mayall's Bluesbreakers. (Pete and John were both at Manchester Art School at the time, after John had done his three year's Military Service.) However, when it came to Ron, Doug wrote: "The trumpet-player was a grammar school boy. "Don't mention my name," he said, so I won't." " We scanned this article for Ron and he could not believe it! He had never even seen it as he lived in Urmston at the time. However, the proof that he was that grammar school boy was in Janet's handwritten notes by the article listing who was playing in the band that night! He was also pleased to see he had proof that the John Mayall in that band is indeed the famous blues performer living in California, as his son had asked him a few times if it was so. Ron thoroughly enjoyed hearing the band and insisted on buying copies of all our CDs!

ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE AT WINSFORD: We keep you informed as to how much the band has contributed to St. Luke's Hospice through our events at Goostrey Village Hall. Following the recent well-attended gig there we have now raised over £5,689 for this very worthy cause. Also supporting St. Luke's is Bentley Motors Limited. There was a wonderful piece on BBC TV telling how when the Bentley car workers were quiet because of the recession, they first refurbished a Charity Shop and rebuilt a garden for St. Luke's. Following this they put 2000 hours in working on the renovation of a 1963 Routemaster Double Decker London Bus, which will now be used as a charity shop and cafe. The Bentley workers did all this work for free! The bus has been fitted out with the same leather used on the expensive car seats and shown on TV, the bus looked absolutely wonderful.

**A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY
NEW YEAR FROM ALL THE BAND!**

MACCABI SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB: Mart has been asked many times if he will take the band to North Manchester, and we now have an event to remedy this. We will be at the Maccabi Sports & Social Club on Bury Old Road, Prestwich, M25 OEG, on Thursday, 10th December. The gig starts at 8.00 and tickets are available at 0161-492-0040. This is a very nice club with a large car park, food and drinks are available, and we are sure everyone will have a good time. Let's hope this is the start of something new and exciting!

TATTON PARK: The band will be back at Tatton Park again on Friday, 11th December during their week of Christmas Concerts. There's a nice picture of the band playing there at a previous concert on their website of Christmas events.

BEST WESTERN MOORSIDE HOTEL HIGHER DISLEY: Mart and Janet and most members of the band live in a stunningly beautiful part of the UK bordering the Peak District. Mart has developed a partnership with The Best Western Moorside Grange Hotel at Higher Disley. With breathtaking views across the countryside this hotel overlooks Lyme Park, part of the National Trust, and those who remember "Pride And Prejudice" will recall the dive into the lake at Lyme Hall by actor, Colin Firth. On May 10th, 11th and 12th, the hotel is offering a fantastic three-day-break when Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz will play from 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. each evening. During the day, visitors will have opportunities to visit nearby attractions and towns such as Chatsworth, Buxton, Castleton, Blue John Mines, Hayfield, Bakewell, as well as Lyme Park and countless others or simply relax in the hotel's leisure and spa centre. Traditional afternoon teas will be served for those who fancy "a naughty but nice" treat. More information on 01663 764 151. The band will also be performing in the main function room at The Best Western Moorside Grange Hotel on Thursday, 11th March, from 8.00 to 10.30 p.m. and tickets are available from the band at £5.00, or you can pay at the door. In addition to this date, a special Sunday night performance will be on the 4th July. The New Orleans themed evening will offer a full night of entertainment where you can enjoy a 3 course special New Orleans menu and a fantastic night of dance and music starting from 8.00pm to 10.30 p.m. Tickets will be available from the hotel. To avoid disappointment, book early, for this event will have limited tickets available, telephone 01663 764 151.

GIVE US A STOMPER, KID: Mart has had this previous LP recording now transferred to CD and it is available from us in the usual way. Mart, Allan, Eric and Colin all feature, together with Bob Ascough, banjo, Pete Staples, drums and the late Joe Palin on piano. There are few recordings of Joe's playing, and his backing of Eric's vocal on "Georgia" is nothing short of outstanding! At one time, Joe followed Dudley Moore into the John Dankworth Orchestra.

OBITUARY 1: Jazzfan, Les Bailey, came to hear the band on many occasions despite his long illness. He had been a merchant seaman in Norwegian waters for many years, spoke Norwegian and we always addressed him as "Herr Les Bailey". He had a keen interest in everything Norwegian and loved spending time there. We met him at Jazz Festivals in Stavanger and Knarvik when he would stay with his old friend, Geir, who would also come to hear the band every time we were in Stavanger. We were very sorry to hear from his wife, Maureen, that he had passed away and as Mart was abroad at the time of Les's funeral, Maureen arranged for Mart's recording of "Blues For A Viking" to be played.

SOME FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

7th Dec. High Lane Conservative Club, 8.00 p.m.
 8th " Cheadle Hulme Conservative Club, 8.00
 10th " Maccabi Sports & Social Club, Bury Old Road, Prestwich. 8.00
 11th " Tatton Park Christmas Concert 8.00
 17th " Poynton British Legion, 8.00
 4th Jan. High Lane Conservative Club 8.00
 7th " Unwin Road Jazz Club, Sutton in Ashfield. NG27 4HN 8.30
 10th " Wilbraham Arms, Alsager, 8.00
 11th " Barnsley Jazz Club, Silkstone Lodge 8.30
 21st " Poynton British Legion 8.00
 24th " Red Lion Hotel, Grasmere (Jazz Break) 8.00
 30th " Chinley Women's Institute 7.30 Tickets: 01663-750608
 1st Feb. High Lane Conservative Club 8.00
 6th " Boston Spa Community Hall 8.30
 18th Feb. Poynton British Legion 8.00
 27th " Bollington Arts Centre 8.00
 1st March High Lane Conservative Club 8.00
 6th " Croft Village Hall for Aud-Med 0161-973-5950
 11th " Moorside Grange Hotel, Disley 8.00

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THE CHANGING FACE OF MANCHESTER IN THE 70s:

Recently Charlie bought a copy of this book and gave it to Mart, telling him to look on Page 79. There is a nice photo of a band there and the paragraph below is all about the Gordon Robinson Septet and gives details of their personnel. However, the picture actually features Colin, Eric and Mart with Bob Ascough, Pete Staples, Roy McGuire and Ian Royle! Perhaps the researcher was misled by the fact that Pete was also with the Gordon Robinson Septet!

ABERSOCH JAZZ FESTIVAL:

We look forward to joining all the fun at Abersoch next June and thank the Jazz Committee for inviting the band again. It will be the 9th time we have played there and we hope that the weather will be as kind as it has been in the past.

OBITUARY 2: Another sad loss is that of Mrs. Donlan, also called Maureen. She used to bring her husband, John, to see the band at Poynton most times we were there. Her funeral was at the Church of St. Hugh and St. John in West Timperley and John invited Mart to bring his clarinet with him and play, "The Old Rugged Cross On The Hill".

14th March Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
 18th " Poynton British Legion 8.00
 26th " Goostrey Village Hall, 8.00 01477-537970
 1st April Burton Jazz Club 8.30
 5th " High Lane Conservative 8.00
 11th April to 1st May—Transatlantic Cruise on Thomson Destiny. See www.Thomson Cruises for information.
 15th April - Poynton British Legion 8.00 Clubnight will still operate.
 3rd May High Lane Con. Club 8.00
 8th May Morley Green Club, Wilmslow, 8.00 p.m.
 10th-12th May Best Western Moorside Grange Hotel, see above.
 16th May Wilbraham Arms, Alsager 8.00 p.m.

For more information, please see our Website.

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS OR E-MAIL