

THOMSON "DESTINY" TRANSATLANTIC CRUISE:

We will be leaving for this cruise on 11th April, and are looking forward to having a very enjoyable time! It will be the sixth time that the band has been booked to play on board the ship – four times with MyTravel when the ship was known as "Sunbird" and this will be the second time with Thomson. As Allan, Roger and Charlie are unable to be with us on board, we will be joined by Dennis Armstrong, Malcolm Hogarth, and Mike Reddin. We will be boarding the ship in the Dominican Republic and will visit Tortola, St. Maarten, Antigua, Dominica, St. Lucia and Barbados before we sail over the Atlantic to Tenerife and Madeira. The ship then travels to Majorca to be in position for the summer cruises in the Mediterranean, visiting Gibraltar, Cartagena, Ibiza Town and Barcelona on the way to Palma, from where we will fly home. We were all very happy to learn that our friends, Dee and John Curtis will be with us on the cruise again – they have joined us on all five previous cruises!

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

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BAND GIG AT POYNTON BRITISH LEGION: Allan, Roger and Charlie will be playing at our usual gig in Poynton on the 3rd Thursday of April (15th) while the rest of us are away on the cruise, and they will be joined by Nigel Cretney, Dave Mott, Paul Medina and Gordon Robinson.

MART'S JOKE ON YouTube: Rafa Nadal, the Spanish tennis-player does have a rather noticeable habit on the tennis court. Recently Mart decided to record a piece for YouTube which is entitled, "Blues For Rafa Nadal". It has been seen by over 1,200 people already – you might like to have a look at it!

JOHN DANKWORTH: We were sorry to learn of the death of this great jazz personality who became a world celebrity with his wife, Cleo Laine, through their incredible music. Some years ago Mart and Janet were invited to attend Marion Montgomery's birthday party at her home. Her husband, Laurie Holloway, was already playing a duet on the piano with his brother when they arrived, and when Laurie saw Mart come in he called over to him to get his clarinet out and join them. Mart had been playing alongside them for a while when he heard someone start to play saxophone next to him. He turned round and was most surprised to see that it was John Dankworth, and they played several tunes together.

BOB THE BUILDER: Recently, Mart was contacted by the musician who composes the music for this popular children's TV programme. He was asked if he would like to play some Dixieland clarinet with a small group which will be the music backing one of the songs. The composer is a former member of a famous 70's Manchester pop group who lives in Cheshire, where he has a recording studio at his home. Mart was delighted to go along and play for the recording and we hope we will be able to catch the show when it is televised.

JAZZ HOLIDAY IN HIGHER DISLEY: The band has been invited to play each evening of a Jazz Holiday on 10th, 11th and 12th May at the Best Western Moorside Grange Hotel in Higher Disley which is situated in a beautiful elevated position. The extensive views from the hotel cover the Cheshire Plain and on a clear day you can see the Great Orme at Llandudno. Visitors will be free during the day to relax in the leisure and spa centre (with swimming pool) or to visit nearby Lyme Park, where some scenes in Pride & Prejudice were filmed. More places to see which are not far from Disley include Chatsworth, Bakewell, Buxton, Bramall Hall, Castleton and the Blue John Mines. On 4th July, the band will play at the Moorside again celebrating the American Independence Day. There will be a New Orleans-based four-course menu. To receive a leaflet detailing these events, please call the hotel on 01663-764151.

GIVE US A STOMPER, KID: We reported in our last Newsletter that Mart has had the LP of this recording transferred onto CD. We have already received two very nice reviews of the CD. The first is from Brian Harvey of radiojazz.co.uk who intends to play it on his April show. He writes: "Mart Rodger's excellent Manchester Jazz Band has been together now for over 25 years and during that time have become one of the pillars that central Britain's jazz citadel is built on." He refers to "this brilliant CD of their work" and says that "everyone in this band is a master of his instrument and the manner in which they dovetail is also an example to erstwhile jazzmen". Thank you, Brian! In the February 2010 issue of "Just Jazz", Barry Clare refers to the band as being "brilliant technical musicians" and writes: "It was good for me to listen again to Allan Dent – surely one of very best trumpeters, for his crisp, beautiful tone. Every note is sharp and clear as a bell. The ideas flow as only they do from a master". Mart receives praise as "a fine clarinetist". Joe Palin also is mentioned for his "fine piano" particularly on "Georgia On My Mind" and "Georgia Bo Bo". He mentions that the vocal credits are not given on the sleeve, and he guesses correctly that they are by Eric Brierley.

KINDER MOUNTAIN RESCUE: During the heavy snow this winter, the local TV news featured a piece regarding the number of people who had been climbing up Kinderscout and getting into difficulties. The Kinder Mountain Rescue group had been going out regularly in severe weather to help these people and now are in need of some financial help following all these rescues. Apparently they get no Government aid for their voluntary work and even have to pay full fuel tax for the vehicles they use. Mart decided to raise some money for them and the band played for an evening which raised £205. We were helped by the Best Western Moorside Grange Hotel in Higher Disley who offered free use of the room, and to two regular jazzfans at our Poynton British Legion gig for donating their raffle prize bottles of wine to the Moorside event.

RADIO 4 – JAZZ PROGRAMME: Recently there was a series of programmes on Jazz by politician, Ken Clarke, who is an avid jazz fan – sadly not particularly of O.K.O.M. (Our Kind Of Music). These were broadcast on Radio 4 soon after lunch on Mondays. When Janet remembered to turn the radio on for the first one which celebrated the life of our friend Humphrey Lyttelton, she had missed half the programme, and “Fidgetty Feet” was being played. It was from his LP “Twenty One Years On”. Unfortunately Ken Clarke did not give the details of the band with Humph, which was sad because our former drummer, Pete Staples, and our banjo-player, Charlie Bentley, were both on that recording.

MARPLE FESTIVAL: The band has been asked to play once again for the Marple Food & Drink Day. This event has now been extended to a complete Marple Festival. In addition to the Saturday appearance at the carpark behind the Bull’s Head, a concert will also be held which will feature both the band and Harmony Revival which will be a similar evening to the one in Cheadle a year or two ago. Harmony Revival are a men’s choir who sing four-part barbershop harmony, sung in the unaccompanied “a capella” style and are very entertaining. At the previous concert the band and the choir joined together in a few numbers which were great fun! The date has not yet been fixed.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: Please let us know if you have e-mail as it will reduce our heavy postage costs. Also, if you change your e-mail address, please let us know the new one.

MORE GIGS FOR THE DIARY:

1st Monday every month: High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Rd. High Lane SK6 8DR
 3rd Thursday every month: Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. West, Poynton SK12 1JY

7 th May	Wetherby Methodist Church
10 th /12 th May	Moorside Grange Hotel, Disley.
16 th May	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
27 th May	Unwin Rd. Jazz Club, Sutton in Ashfield NG17 4HN
29 th May	Brookdale Social Club, Bramhall
31 st May	Cabbage Hall Hotel, Tarporley.
5 th June	Wincle Fete - afternoon
6 th June	Crofters Hotel, Garstang
11 th /12 th June	Abersoch Jazz Festival
24 th June	Maccabi Social Club, Prestwich
M25 OEG	
3 rd July	Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield
4 th July	Moorside Grange Hotel, Disley.
11 th July	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
23 rd August	Eagley Jazz Club
11 th Sept.	Holmes Chapel Methodist Church
12 th Sept.	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
25 th Sept.	Marple Food & Drink Day
16 th Oct.	Calver Village Hall
25 th Oct.	Rotherham Jazz Club
30 th Oct.	Goostrey Village Hall
7 th Nov.	Rochdale Jazz Club
11 th Nov.	Unwin Rd. Jazz Club, Sutton in Ashfield
14 th Nov.	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager

CAM-CORDERS: If you want to make a recording of the band, please ask Mart first, and don’t, under any circumstances, put your efforts onto YouTube. Someone asked Mart recently if she could use her camcorder. Mart gave his permission while being well aware that the sound would be distorted because she was sitting far too close to the band, and realized she could only see two of the musicians easily. He was horrified to find out that the resulting film had been placed on YouTube, but has now been removed luckily. One bit showed a close-up of part of Mart’s white shirt while a banjo solo was being played – not really what you want - and even the title of the tune was given incorrectly.

VANCOUVER DIXIEFEST: We hear from our friends who run this great event that the 2010 DixieFest may well be their last. They tell us that the financial help they rely on has been diverted to help pay the bill for the recent Winter Olympics. They are definitely in business for the next festival, but if the usual money they rely on is not forthcoming for the 2011 one, it will signal the end for them.

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