

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 66 AUGUST 2011

THE BAND SEEN ON TV: Mart, Eric, Colin, Chris and Charlie had to be at the studios at 7.00 a.m. on 25th January for the filming of an episode of Channel 4's "Shameless", when they appear as a New Orleans marching band, accompanying a funeral. They were on the set almost all day and were supplied with a terrific breakfast and lunch! They were all asked to sign a secrecy document each to ensure that the storyline would not reach the press in advance (as did the Coronation Street story about the tram crash). It has been a long wait for the episode to be shown on Channel 4, but at last we can reveal that it will be aired on Tuesday, 30th August at 10.00 p.m. (which is necessarily after the 9.00 o'clock watershed for younger viewers). Clips from this episode are now available to see on the Shameless website.

CHARLIE BENTLEY: The resignation from the band by our Banjo/Guitar player, Charlie Bentley, was a complete shock to the band. We had known for a long time that Charlie suffered pain in his hands with playing banjo for so many years, and he had operations some time ago because of this. However, he decided to finish playing regularly and kindly waited until Roger was able to return to the band before he said anything about it. We are all sorry to see him go and wish him all the best for the future. Ian McCann had been playing in his place when Charlie was away and he agreed to join the band right away. Charlie had played in a band with Mart in the 1960s but left the local scene when he turned professional. He joined Shep's Banjo Band playing at the Golden Garter at first then they became very famous and appeared on "Sunday Night At The London Palladium" and were the regular band on Granada's "The Comedians". (A DVD of the Comedians is available now from Simply Entertainment, www.simplyent.co.uk.) On one occasion we were playing in Stavanger and Allan's lip was too sore to continue playing his trumpet for the rest of the session. Charlie was called upon to play some of his Lonnie Donegan numbers to give Allan a chance to rest his lip. This went down very well with the audience, and after that Charlie often played one or two of Lonnie's famous numbers.

YOUTUBE: If you direct your computer to YouTube and then to Mart Rodger, you will find our selection of short DVDs there. In the last Newsletter we mentioned that "The River's Taking Care Of Me" would be on YouTube before long and it is there to see now. The DVD shows the band playing at Poynton Methodist Church and the otters are available to see at the Chestnut Centre in Chapel-en-le-Frith. Since then, Mart has arranged to have "I Believe In Rainbows" transferred from our second video, which was filmed at the Granada Studios Starlight Theatre in Manchester. This is also on YouTube and features Mart, Roger, Pete Staples and the composer, our bass player Colin Smith. Also on YouTube is "Swanee River" from our first video, now on DVD, "A Jazz Club Session".

CILCAIN VILLAGE HALL: We travelled to North Wales on 15th July to play a session at this Hall, near Mold. The hall was full and the audience gave the band a great welcome. It was a very successful evening and we were told everyone was talking about the concert next day. The Post Office was playing one of our CDs too! One of the jazzfans told Mart that he had been at a concert to hear the Chris Barber and Kenny Ball bands and he considered our night at Cilcain was better. Two bookings have been made for the band to play there again next year on Saturday 24th March and Friday, 14th September

HENRY HOLLOWAY: Henry is a well-known broadcaster in South Africa and he and Mart have been friends for a number of years. Henry has played tracks from all of the band's records on his regular programme, Fine Music Radio, and recently received an e-mail from one of his listeners reading: "I enjoyed the FMR playlist yesterday, Saturday May 14th. Your programme starts at 10.00 a.m. my time. Although composed many years earlier, one of my favourite songs from the 50s is So Rare by Jimmy Dorsey. Thank you for playing the very nice version by Mart Rodger." It was kind of Henry to let us know and to give us the information that track No. 5 would be Mart playing So Rare and track No. 6 would be Marion Montgomery singing I Get The Blues When It Rains from our CD, "Makin' Whoopee".

MART RODGER MANAGEMENT: P.O. BOX 4, DISLEY, STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE. SK12 2NH

WEB: www.manchesterjazz.co.uk **E-MAIL:** jazzmart@manchesterjazz.co.uk

BUXTON FRINGE FESTIVAL:

Mart arranged for the band to play at the Railway Hotel in Buxton for two nights of the Buxton Fringe, 8th and 22nd July. There were not a lot of people in the audience on the first gig but we were pleased to see the room quite full for the second one. Keith Savage was there on the 8th and put the following review on the Fringe Review pages:

“Mart Rodger brought his full 7-piece line-up to the Fringe for a splendid evening of (mostly) tradjazz. Two one hour sets and 21 tunes ensured full value for money and the quality of the playing was of the highest class. If jazz is your thing be sure to be at the Railway on July 22nd when the band returns. Mart says they have a repertoire of 2000 tunes and so they'll probably play a totally different set.

It may seem rude and unnecessary to point out that these guys have been playing for many years - bass player Colin Smith was 80 earlier this year. Some might imagine that the fire had gone out of the bellies of veteran musicians but the fact is the playing was crisp, clear and focussed throughout. Clearly they love the music they play and enjoy playing together.

Tonight's tunes included pieces from many of jazz's early greats - Kid Ory, Benny Moten, Bix Beiderbecke, Mezz Mezzrow. The highlight of the first set was, for me, a take on the Louis Armstrong/Jelly Roll Morton tune Wild Man Blues. Unexpectedly the set ended with Sonny Rollins' calypso classic St Thomas. The second set included a splendid version of King Oliver's The Riverside Blues and a touching piano solo by Roger Browne who played Joplin's waltz Bethena. Eric Brierley sung a handful of songs - notably Dinah - and Roger Browne treated us to Just One of Those Things.

All in all a lovely evening, charmingly presented by Mart Rodger and played with exuberance, energy and great musicianship. You'll go a long way to hear this music played better.”

We were at the Awards Ceremony on the following Sunday and were pleased to hear the band nominated for an award, however the recipient was the Sovereign Saxophone Octet.

CHARITY NIGHT AT MOTTTRAM ST. ANDREW VILLAGE HALL: Some years ago, artist, Ian Price, booked the band regularly to play concerts in aid of the East Cheshire Hospice, to which he gave great support. Some of these nights were at the Silk Heritage Centre in Macclesfield, and the more recent ones were held at Kings School, where Ian and a lot of his friends were educated. Since his sad death these concerts have ceased, but it has now been decided to hold another one in his memory. Following our successful concert at Poynton Methodist Church for St. Ann's Hospice which raised £800 following Pauline Brown's illness, the proceeds will be shared between the two hospices. This charity night will be on Sunday, 13th November, starting at 7.30 p.m. and tickets will be on sale from Mart and from the two hospices.

MORE PLACES TO HEAR THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Rd. SK6 8DR 8.00

3rd Thursday of every month Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. SK12 1JY 8.00

3rd Sept. Goostrey Village Hall 8.00 01477-537970

8th Sept. Norton Cricket Club Stoke on Trent.

9th Sept. Disley Golf Club 8.00 p.m. All Welcome

10th Sept. Ashby-de-la-Zouche

18th Sept. Rochdale Jazz Club 8.00

1st Oct. Bollington Arts Centre 8.00

15th Oct. Calver Village Hall, tickets required.

16th Oct. Disley Golf Club, 3.00 to 5.30 pm. All Welcome.

29th Oct. Tarporley British Legion

3rd Nov. Unwin Road Jazz Club, Sutton in Ashfield
NG17 4HN 8.30

11th Nov. Wetherby Methodist Church 7.30

13th Nov. Motttram St. Andrew Village Hall 7.30

26th Nov. Goostrey Village Hall 8.00 Tickets: 01477-537970

16th Dec. Croft Village Hall, Warrington. 8.00

NEW VENUE IN ALTRINCHAM: Having found a venue in Altrincham for a monthly Friday night residency, Mart is at present negotiating the arrangements and will be giving the details as soon as possible.

E-BAY: We are amused to see the prices of some of the band's recordings which are available on E-Bay!

INTERNET RADIO: Steve Bewick presents his jazz programme, Hot Biscuits, on www.fcumradio.co.uk on Mondays at 7.00 p.m. and Sundays at 11.00 p.m. He came to our gig at High Lane Conservative Club recently and made some recordings which he tells us will be on his show on Monday, 19th September.

If you change your address or your e-mail address, please do let us know.