

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 75 APRIL 2015

LATEST NEWS OF ALLAN DENT: We are very happy that Allan has had his heart surgery and is making a good recovery. He is driving his car again and walking his dog each day. We hope to hear that he continues to make good progress.

TRUMPET DEPS: We have been very fortunate to have Peter Brown from Stoke and Jon Critchley from Chester who have played trumpet with the band while Allan has been unable to play. We have been able to carry on with their help – thank you, Pete and Jon!

ROYAL GARDEN JAZZ BAND'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY: When the band made their first appearance at the Dresden International Dixieland Jazz Festival in East Germany in 1986, Norway's Royal Garden Jazz Band played at the same event. Mart made great friends with their clarinet-player, Finn Arnesen, and this started some wonderful visits for both bands between Norway and England. Finn invited the band to join them in their 35th Anniversary celebrations in 1991, amongst other gigs, and Mart would invite the Norwegian band back here for the Stockport Stomp and some more events. Mart also played with Finn and the band at the Oslo Jazz festival in 1989. As they will celebrate their 60th anniversary in October, they have invited Mart to play with them over the weekend. Needless to say, he is looking forward to it very much! Obviously the musicians in the Royal Garden Jazzband had barely left school when they started the band.

POYNTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: We have decided to alter the playing time at Poynton, following a winter of really bad weather on each 3rd Thursday of the month. As we play in the afternoon at Timperley Sports Club we are changing to having an afternoon session from now on at Poynton too. We had asked some of our regular audience their opinion about this and the majority seemed to think it was a good idea. However, we still play in the evenings at High Lane Conservative Club and some of our friends have turned up there instead. It was interesting to note that we have made new friends at the Poynton afternoon session already.

E-MAIL ADDRESSES: As the decision was made to change to matinee sessions in Poynton, we realized that we didn't have the names and addresses of some of the regular attenders. Luckily we did have e-mails for a lot of our friends and we were able to notify them but on the night we cancelled the gig following an appalling weather forecast, Mart waited at Poynton British Legion to alert any of our friends who decided to brave the weather. As a result of this, we are asking people to let us have e-mail addresses or phone numbers in case of a change like this, and the change that took place at Timperley's Branksome Suite when we were told two days ahead that the room would not be free to have our Thursday afternoon session there.

KIRKCUDBRIGHT JAZZ FESTIVAL: We look forward to playing at this excellent festival again on Friday, 12th June and Saturday, 13th June. We have appeared at Kirkcudbright many times since our first visit in 2001 and really enjoy the visit to this lovely Scottish town. No doubt we will see many old friends there who we also met at the Edinburgh Jazz Festival some years ago.

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JAZZ RECORD REQUESTS ON BBC RADIO 3: It was very handy to be able to look ahead on the Radio 3 website to see the programme for the Saturday 5.00 p.m. Record Requests programme. As there is a diverse mixture of jazz on that show, you could really decide if you would listen to it all, or join in at certain times when there were records you really wanted to hear. However, this has now changed and the programme is only filled in as a record is played so you can't now pick and choose. As Janet decided this was a backward step, she sent an e-mail to the programme suggesting that they should re-instate the previous arrangement. She mentioned that it was hardly likely that the Ken Colyer fan would necessarily want to wait through some modern jazz in case some good traditional music might come up. However, she had a reply from the presenter, Alyn Shipton, telling her that this new way of listing the tunes is so that it fits in with iPlayers etc. and is not likely to be changed. Progress!

BASS PLAYER, ALLAN WILCOX: Ken Marley, the bass player who took over when Colin Smith left, decided to leave the band recently. Mart contacted Allan Wilcox and he agreed to come in as Ken's replacement. A self-taught orchestral bassist from the age of 14, Allan Wilcox discovered his ability to play jazz in a Kent pub in 1979 when the bassist in a trio he had gone to listen to was suddenly taken ill, and he was asked to stand in. 'Just play the notes you're sure of,' said the pianist, and Allan found he was sure of more than he had expected to be. Since then he has played regularly throughout Britain, in Europe and in the USA.

MART'S HAND OPERATION: Mart was troubled with trapped nerves in his wrists over thirty years ago and had the carpal tunnel operations then. Last summer his left wrist was causing a lot of pain. He was able to have another operation in September and has recovered. However, he found it very difficult to play his usual clarinets at that time and was able to buy a "covered" clarinet from a specialist firm in London. This is more like the way a saxophone is built and has enabled him to get back playing as usual more quickly!

HAPPY MEMORY: Mentioning our CD with Marion Montgomery brings back an amusing thing that happened. After the recording Mart took Marion for dinner at a local hotel. A waiter came over at one stage, looked Janet straight in the eye and said, "Miss Montgomery, my father is a great fan of yours, please would you sign an autograph for him?" Janet was very surprised, and Marion couldn't stop laughing. The other waiters were watching and they had obviously "set him up" when he asked which lady at the table was the famous singer! Marion did sign the autograph for him, of course (not Janet!)

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 p.m. 4th May, 1st June, 6th July, 3rd August, 7th Sept. etc.

3rd Thursday of every month:

Poynton British Legion Georges Rd. West SK12 1JY 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, 29th August, 7th Sept. etc.

NOW MATINEE SESSIONS, 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m.

4th Thursday of every month: Timperley Sports Club, Stockport Road, Timperley. WA15 7LU 2.00 p.m. 28th May, 25th June, 23rd July, 27th August, 24th Sept. etc.

26th April	Rochdale Jazz Club
12/13th June	Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival
27th June	Heald Green Village Festival, 2.00 p.m.
1st July	Eaton Hall, nr. Chester. 7.30
4th July	Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield. 7.30
31st August	Barnsley Jazz Club 8.30
6th October	Skipton Rendezvous Hotel 12.00 p.m.
10th October	Calver Village Hall 7.30
24th Oct,	Goostrey Village Hall Tkts: 01477-537970
12th Nov.	Glossop Jazz Club

AN UNEXPECTED MEETING: One of Mart's golfing friends, Stan, was telling him of an occasion in New Orleans. Stan was working in America at the time and at the weekends he would take a plane to New Orleans and enjoy everything that was happening there. On one evening he visited Al Hirt's jazz club and it was extremely dark. A young pianist was playing and he was terrific so Stan applauded him, when he heard a man at his table say, "Thank you, that's my son". When the lights went up after the young pianist finished, the man next to Stan was introduced to the audience and he was then invited to get up and play too. It was Fats Domino, who signed an autograph for Stan after his own performance!

CLARRIE HENLEY: We were very sorry to hear that Clarrie Henley has lost his brave battle against his illness. We had known Clarrie for many years since he wrote a great article about the band in his regular column in the Daily Telegraph. He also did an excellent review of our CD "Makin' Whoopee" with Marion Montgomery in the American jazz newspaper, The Jersey Rag. Mart invited him to write the sleeve notes on that record as well as T'Ain't Nobody's Bizness If We Do. Clarrie organised some tours over here for guitarist, Marty Grosz, and invited Mart, Allan and Colin to play on a few of the gigs in 1996 and 1997.