

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

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BAND VIDEO: We had a visit from Jenny and Ray Knight who run a website, www.harveydoesjazz.com. They have been touring the country talking to club organizers bands and jazzers and making videos. They visited us at High Lane on 1st May and we had a great evening. They will be putting videos of a few North West bands onto their website when they have completed their trip. As Chris had an accident and couldn't play that night, our former drummer, Nigel Cretney, played in his place. Some of the tunes played were "Going To Town", "Texas Moaner", "Dixie Cinderella", "Let's Sing Again", "Out Of The Galleon", "Stormy Monday", "Tuck Me To Sleep In My Old Kentucky Home", "The Lord is Listening To You, Hallelujah", "Jive At Five", "Cheek To Cheek", "I'll See You In My Dreams", "Texas Moaner" and "St. Thomas".

BAND UNIFORMS: Recently, one of the really good band waistcoats was in need of a re-make. Mart was very pleased when Eric's wife, Maggi, offered to do this as she is a talented seamstress. After she had completed her course at Manchester Art School as a teenager, Maggi went to London to work for the famous theatrical costumier, Monty Berman, where all the outfits for the big shows were produced. Thank you Maggi for a very professional job!

SILVER WEDDINGS: The band will be playing at a Silver Wedding party this year for a couple who booked the band to play at their wedding twenty five years ago! The same year the band played for the wedding of another couple and their daughter has contacted Mart and bought some of our records to give to them as a surprise present!

EATON HALL, CHESTER: We have been booked again to play for the NeuroMuscular Society at the Duke of Westminster's estate at Eaton Hall on 28th June. The band has played at this event for four consecutive years and it is really amazing to drive into such a wonderful property. This worthwhile charity is given the privilege to use the Long Room and Wolf Room for the one evening a year. The NeuroMuscular Centre strives to improve the quality of life for the sufferers of Muscular Dystrophy, which is very challenging and can be very difficult. Their new facilities at the Centre will be opening soon with, among other things, a fully accessible gym, new larger physio area and a new Design and Print Centre.

FRANKIE'S WINE BAR, DISLEY: The band quartet was invited to play at this wine bar in Disley village in December, which has resulted in a booking for the quartet to play there on the last Thursday of each month. They start playing at 8.15p.m. For anyone remembering old Disley, this was the pub called "The Mousetrap" years ago!

GLOSSOP JAZZ CLUB: We have two bookings for this club, which is held at Glossop Cricket Club. The next one is on Thursday, 20th April, and we look forward to it. We are also booked to play there again later this year on 7th December.

UNUSUAL REQUEST: Janet often answers lots of questions when she is sitting there selling our records, but in Great Falls, Montana, the strangest request was, "What do you want for your pen?" She asked to have the question repeated, and then found out that the lady collected hotel pens from anywhere in the world. As Mart and Janet had holidayed in Italy that year, the pen she was using was from a hotel there and had a distinctive appearance. Not only did she give the lady that pen, but sent her some more that had originated in U.K., Norway, Germany and Australia. She received a nice letter thanking her!

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CHRISTMAS TV VIEWING: On Christmas Day we looked forward to seeing a 40-year-old episode of the “Morecambe & Wise” Christmas Show on the BBC. When Eric and Ernie announced that their guest singer would sing “Goofus”, we knew before she came on that it was our friend, Marion Montgomery! Years ago we had videoed this programme when it was repeated one time. Marion was staying at Mart and Janet’s house during one of her concerts with the band and we played it for her. She was thrilled to see it again.

FULWOOD OLD CHAPEL: We always enjoy our annual jazz evening at this historic Church on the outskirts of Sheffield. We were there first in 2004 and would like to thank Rod and Elizabeth for booking the band again each year! We’ll see you and your committee there again on 1st July.

BUXTON FRINGE FESTIVAL: We have arranged to play on the three Friday nights of Buxton’s Fringe Festival. Our concerts will be at Buxton Conservative Club on the 7th, 14th and 21st July. The band has taken part in this Festival twice before and we expect it will be as busy as usual.

BOSTON SPA JAZZ CLUB: We have played at Boston Spa, Yorkshire many times, an event that was originally held at the Crown pub. It is now held at the local Village Hall, which was where Mart’s son, Andrew, held his 40th birthday party, some years ago. That was the first time the band played there. When the jazz club was leaving the Crown, Mart suggested to the organizers of the jazz that they should look at the Village Hall, but it was several months later that they decided to give it a try there. Since then it has worked well and it is a thriving jazz club. We look forward to being there again on 17th June.

BAKEWELL MEDWAY CENTRE: We were pleased that the Bakewell Rotary chose to put on an evening featuring the band. This was very well attended and was repeated last October. We will now be playing there again later this year on 27th October. Before the 2nd concert Mart and Janet had been into the bookshop in Bakewell to buy another copy of Stephen Booth’s “The Murder Road” which mentions the band playing a concert at Torr Vale Mill and the bookseller recognized Mart from the 1st concert. We put this into our last Newsletter and he came over at the concert saying he was very pleased to be mentioned! You will remember that we were amazed some time ago to be told that “The Murder Road” mentioned the band playing a concert at the Torr Vale Mill, which actually took place on 6th April 2013. This was part of a build-up to a scene featuring one of the fictional characters.

TODWICK VILLAGE HALL: We played a concert there last year and enjoyed the evening. We will play there again on 23rd September. For details click on Todwick Jazz Supper Club.

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 pm. 6th November, 4th December, January 8th etc.

3rd Monday of every month:

Poynton British Legion Georges Rd. West SK12 1JY 7.30. 20th November, 18th Dec. 15th January etc.

20th April Glossop Jazz Club 8.00 p.m.

28th May Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00

17th June Boston Spa Jazz Club 8.00

28th June Eaton Hall, Eccleston. 7.00

1st July Fulwood Old Chapel 7.30

7th, 14th, 21st July Buxton Fringe Festival at Buxton Conservative Club. 8.00 each night.

27th Aug. Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00

23rd Sept. Todwick Village Hall. 7.30

28th Sept. Burton Jazz Club 8.00

8th Oct. Buxton Pavilion Arts Centre 1.00 p.m.

27th Oct. Bakewell Medway Centre 7.00

7th Dec. Glossop Jazz Club

BAND LAUGHS: Janet has recorded quite a few funny things in her notebook over the years. The one that comes to mind first is when drummer, Pete Staples, went through Customs at Chicago O’Hare Airport on one of the band’s trips to the USA. The customs officer asked if he had any food-stuffs with him and Pete admitted to two Morrison’s steak pies! These were confiscated immediately, so at the next gig Roger sang “Chicago”, changing the words to “Bet Your Bottom Dollar You Lose Your Pies In Chicago”! Pete, at Customs in Stavanger Airport, was asked how long he would be staying in Norway. Pete replied, “Well, we’re booked for the week-end but if they don’t like us we may be going back to-morrow!” Another funny item was when we were in the Caribbean on one of the Cruises. Mart jokingly asked the audience, “Will the driver of the Red Ford Mondeo please go and turn off your alarm” and one of the band added “At Manchester Airport!” At Great Falls, Montana, one night the sound team were busy putting their system around the band stand, and Roger said, “Just look at all the microphones for Charlie Bentley, he’s got more than the Pope on Easter Sunday”! Another item was the booking we had for the Tri-Cities Jazz Festival at a hotel in Kennewick, Washington State. We flew into Seattle and hired the cars there to drive to Kennewick. We were looking for the Cavanaugh Hotel which seemed very difficult to find. We drove round and round and had to stop eventually and ask a passer-by, who told us were outside the correct hotel, but the name had been changed recently to The West Coast Hotel! No one told the band!