

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 82 APRIL 2018

THE BAND IN NORWAY AGAIN: We were very happy to be invited to return to Stavanger again following our previous 36 enjoyable visits to Norway. The January Jazz Weekend took place once more in the town centre and we all stayed again at the Best Western Victoria Hotel. To see the information about the weekend the website is Stavanger tradjassfestival 2018 and there is a Spotify playlist which features three of our recordings, "We Three", "Copenhagen" and "Let's Sing Again". Our plane took us into Stavanger via Oslo on Thursday, 18th January, and the band played on Friday and Saturday. The gigs were at 2 Trapper on Friday evening and on Saturday at Manesjen at 1.00 p.m. and 9.00 p.m. It was good to meet Petter's team again at the Airport and to see our sound man, Tom, who has been doing that job for most of the times we have been there. After the second gig on Saturday, we had a very early start on Sunday morning to catch the first plane, to Copenhagen, this journey. Unfortunately there was a delay as the plane had a fault and another one had to be sent from Copenhagen to pick up all the people flying that morning. This created such a delay that when we arrived at Copenhagen the Manchester flight had already left. The airline managed to arrange a flight to Frankfurt and we were able to get back to Manchester with the help of Lufthansa. We have been asked what the weather was like that weekend in Norway, well, it was very cold and we also had snow! Looking back to our early visits to Norway we remember playing at the Haugesund Jazz Festival in 1994 when we first met Petter's Dad, Per, his Uncle, Jan, and their good friend, Odd. We didn't know that there was a box of mints in the shops there that had the label, "Dent". When Allan Dent played his solos, these chaps responded by each holding up a box of Dent mints! Per told us then that his son, Petter, held jazz events at Bryggeriet, his pub in Stavanger, and soon arranged for us to make our first visit there. Some years we went to Stavanger as often as five times and we had the experience of playing at two Tall Ships Races there when these wonderful ships were tied up on the waterfront just outside the hotels, bars and restaurants—memorable!

CHARITY NIGHT AT POYNTON METHODIST CHURCH: Mart and Janet met Joseph Whitworth at a service a few months ago. Joseph is wheelchair-bound and is in his last year at Primary School. He has had his present wheelchair since he was 3 and new parts for it are now unavailable. As he cannot stand at all he will need a new wheelchair before he will be able to attend Poynton High School. This special chair is to cost £25,000 and will have to be paid for by his family as the NHS cannot fund it. Mart suggested that the band would play a concert at Poynton Methodist Church in aid of Joseph's new wheels and this took place on Saturday, 10th March. Mart let lots of our friends know about this and the jazzfans were very kind and contributed well to the fund. Church members and jazzfans were in the audience that evening, and a total of £1,343.20 was raised which has made Nicola, Joseph's Mum, very happy indeed! She writes: "I am thrilled to tell you that we have now raised all the funds needed for Joseph's chair and will be ordering it shortly. Many, many, thanks for your support in helping to make this possible. A year ago we had a huge mountain to climb and thanks to the fantastic support we have received we have reached the summit". Nicola brought Joseph to Poynton Legion on 19th March to hear the band and were able to meet everyone. Two big fundraising events had taken place the previous week which had completed the amount needed!

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LOCAL RADIO IN FLORIDA, ABOUT 1996! Some years ago when the BBC used to broadcast half-hour traditional jazz programmes, the band recorded several of these at the BBC in Manchester and at Pebble Mill. On holiday in Orlando one time, Mart sat in at a couple of jazz clubs and mentioned one of the recent broadcasts. A chap there asked Mart to send a copy of the recording we had taken from the radio and it was posted to him. He liked it so much that he managed to have it played one evening on the local University Radio. However, at the end of the music there was a dire weather warning that the BBC had broadcast immediately after the programme. This was also played that night in Florida and we heard that the radio station received many phone calls afterwards from listeners who thought they were going to get some unexpectedly awful weather in Florida! (They liked the music though!)

PAVILION ARTS CENTRE, BUXTON: We have played at this venue regularly over the years for their Sunday lunchtime jazz events which were only held during winter months. It is a super theatre and holds about 200 people. However, it was originally a cinema and they have spent time now in returning it to its former use. It has been operating as a cinema since the New Year and probably holds more people now. This has resulted in the jazz bookings being dropped, but we are hoping that the powers that be might one day start this again as our concerts were very well attended.

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL: We returned to Goostrey in February for another concert in aid of St. Luke's Hospice at Winsford. It was good to see so many of our friends there again and are grateful to Brian for organising the posters and ticket sales as before. The band has played there quite a number of times over the years and over £10,000 has been raised in the past. This time we were able to send another £300 to help the Hospice as a result of this concert and we hope to go there again later in the year.

ANOTHER CHARITY EVENT: We always enjoy receiving an invitation to play in the Long Room/Wolf Room at Eaton Hall, near Chester. This is on the Duke of Westminster's private estate and it is wonderful to be driving through the lovely parkland to reach the venue. Once again the band has been booked by the Neuromuscular Society as one of their money-raising events. This will be the 6th time we have been invited.

CALVER VILLAGE HALL: The band has played regularly over the years at this venue, which is in the Hope Valley, not far from Chatsworth. Another concert will take place on Friday, 18th May, and the charity to benefit will be the very worthwhile MacMillan Cancer Support. The concert starts at 7.30p.m. and tickets will be £10 from Denise on 01433 630760 and from Jeff on 01142 353766.

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 p.m. 2nd April, 7th May, 4th June, 2nd July, 6th August, etc.

3rd Monday of every month:

Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. West. SK12 1JY 7.30 p.m. 16th April, 21st May, 18th June, 16th July, 20th August, etc.

29th March Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.
 14th April St. Asaph Cathedral, North Wales. 7.30
 22nd April Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00 p.m.
 18th May Calver Village Hall. 8.00 p.m.
 31st May Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.
 24th June Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00 p.m.
 27th June Eaton Hall, near Chester. 7.00 p.m.
 28th June Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.
 26th July Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.
 27th August Barnsley Jazz Club.
 30th August Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.

NANT PERRIS, NORTH WALES: Our double-bass player, Allan Wilcox, asked the band to play at his local Church a few miles from Llanberis last year and it was an enjoyable event. As Allan celebrated his 70th birthday on Christmas Day last, he invited us to play at his party at his local pub a few days later. We all had a very good time, thank you, Allan!

MEDWAY CENTRE, BAKEWELL: After two successful concerts in aid of Cancer Research at this venue we have been booked to play there again for the same charity. The band will be there on Friday, 2nd November.

BARNSELY JAZZ CLUB: We will play there on 27th August. We remember playing at the Barnsley Jazz Festival many years ago when the landlord of the pub wouldn't allow Janet to sell the records in the premises, so she ended up showing them to the customers and then having to go outside to be paid!

ST. ASAPH CATHEDRAL: There will be a concert at the Cathedral on 14th April at 7.30. We hope we will be seeing friends we have made over the years at Abersoch, Bangor, Barmouth, Llangollen and Llandudno.