

CARE HOMES: One of the band's fans has had a stroke and is now at Beechcroft Manor, a care home in Bredbury, near Stockport. His daughter and her friend arranged for Mart to take a trio in to entertain the gentleman for an hour one afternoon last week. Quite a few of the other residents turned up to listen to the concert, and all said they had had a lovely time. It was interesting to see that one or two of the dementia sufferers could remember the words to some of the songs played and joined in! As Charlie was at work, Ian McCann played banjo and guitar that afternoon. The quartet from the band has also played a few times at Dysteleghe Grange, a lovely care home in Disley where Mart's Mum spent some happy years.

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL: Once again we are happy to report that the concert at Goostrey was very successful and another £427.50 was raised for St. Luke's Hospice at Winsford. This has taken the total now sent to St. Lukes from these jazz nights to almost £7000.00. We will be at Goostrey again on December 3<sup>rd</sup> and some tickets are still available from Brian on 01477-537970. These nights would not have been such a success without the help of Pat Carson when they started seven years ago, and Brian Lancaster more recently. Brian is one of the Friends of St. Lukes and sells the tickets, as well as preparing the room before the jazz night, and tidying up at the end of the evening.

# MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

## NEWSLETTER NO. 64

### DECEMBER 2010

#### CHRISTMAS WISHES FROM ALL THE BAND

ALLAN, ERIC, MART, COLIN, CHRIS, CHARLIE AND ROGER

WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HOPE YOU HAVE A HAPPY NEW YEAR. WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN IN 2011

#### AMERICAN REVIEW OF "ALLMART":

Our good friend, journalist Doug Jackson, sent us a copy of a review in the IAJRC Journal dated June 2009. (International Association of Jazz Record Collectors) We hadn't seen this review before and were very pleased to receive it. The reviewer is John Clark and he writes: "This 2007 release by British clarinetist Martin Rodger was done as a fiftieth anniversary present to his wife and includes a selection of tunes which apparently played a sentimental role in their lives. This is fortunate, as we get to hear a number of tunes well outside the usual canon. The personnel listed is collective – with the exception of the first track - each tune features Rodger with some combination of the rhythm section. In an interesting conceit, Hiawatha (interpolating Over The Waves) is from 1953 and conjures up the sound and energy of early British traditional jazz, his inspiration obviously being George Lewis. Nevertheless, Rodger demonstrates a growth of musical understanding (and, presumably, technique) in his treatment of very un-mouldy standards. His clarinet is at its best on the slow and medium numbers – his unaccompanied theme statement on Old Rugged Cross and rubato verse (accompanied only by piano) to September Song are very well done. He even takes an unaffected vocal on S'posin' which is completely in keeping with the emotion of the song. Perhaps the strangest track is Misty which is taken not in 8/4 as the notes say, but in 8/8 – effectively doubling the beat but not tempo and turning the tune into a bouncy foxtrot. The most interesting inclusions on the program are Tony Parenti's City of the Blues and the 1972 Gilbert O'Sullivan hit, Alone Again (Naturally), which is also given a bouncy treatment. Rodger's compatriots here are all members of his regular band, Manchester Jazz. Not surprisingly, pianist Browne is featured more on the swing numbers (S'posin' and September Song) while banjoist Bentley (who plays guitar on the swing sides) is more prominent on the Trad-ish selections (East Coast Trot, Burgundy Street Blues). Crossover is achieved on St. Philip Street Breakdown, which features a rollicking piano solo, and Frenesi, which works as a banjo feature. The bassist and drummer function primarily as support, but a drum solo on S'posin' and bass on East Coast Trot allow them some fun as well. All in all, this disc is an engaging musical outing, due in no small part to the ranging repertoire – perhaps another instance of a musician's wife exercising a civilising influence!"

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**NORWAY:** The band was invited to play a session for the usual Saturday afternoon Jazz Club in Stavanger in October. It was great to see many of our friends at the Skaggen Brygge Hotel again and the audience certainly showed its appreciation! This jazz club has been operating on Saturdays for many years, thanks to the dedication of our good friend, Petter Moldestad. We were pleased to see Petter's Dad, Per, but were sorry we missed his usual party, Jan, Gerd and Odd, because they were all on holiday. No doubt we will see them again when we return in January for the Stavanger TradJazz Weekend, which will be the 35<sup>th</sup> time the band has travelled to play in Norway since our first trip there in 1990! Per, Jan and Odd were at the Haugesund Jazz Festival a few years later and heard the band for the first time. They were knocked out with Allan's playing and came in with a packet each of some Norwegian mints called "Dent". At each of Allan's solos they held up these little boxes! They then recommended Petter to book the band for his Saturday Jazz Club which was then at Petter's pub, Briggeriet, and the Stavanger TradJazz Weekend started soon after that in January 1997.

**YOU-TUBE:** Mart's short clip "Blues for Rafa Nadal" has now received more than 2,000 hits on YouTube! Have you seen it?

**DRONFIELD CIVIC HALL:** Quite a few people on this year's cruise were from the Dronfield and Sheffield areas and told Mart that there is no jazz of our sort available to them. Mart has arranged for the band to play at Dronfield Civic Hall for the night of Saturday, 12<sup>th</sup> March, and we hope we'll be seeing them all again. Tickets will be available from the Hall and from Mart, and the jazz will start at 7.30.

**MORE PLACES TO HEAR THE BAND:**

- 1st Monday of every month: High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Rd. High Lane. SK6 8DR 8.00
- 3rd Thursday of every month: Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. West, Poynton. SK12 1JY 8.00. EXCEPT January when we will be there on Monday 17th.
- 21-24 Jan. Stavanger TradJazz Weekend, Norway.
- 27th Jan. Unwin Road Jazz Club, Sutton-in-Ashfield. NG17 4HN
- 3rd Feb. Burton Jazz Club, Marstons Social Club
- 5th Feb. Chinley Women's Institute  
Tickets: 01663-750608
- 4th Mar. Goostrey Village Hall 8.00  
Tickets. 01477-537970
- 12th Mar. Dronfield Civic Hall 7.30
- 13th Mar. Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00
- 18th Mar. Croft Memorial Hall 8.00 Tickets: 01925-828441
- 19th Mar. Poynton Methodist Church Tkts: Janet
- 7th April Unwin Rd. Jazz Club
- 14th Apr. Burton Jazz Club, Marstons Social Club
- 1st May Buxton Arts Centre 1.00 p.m.
- 9th May Poachers Inn, Bollington 12.00 p.m.
- Special charity session includes lunch

**"DESTINY" CRUISE:** We are sorry that we have not been booked to play on the Caribbean-to-Majorca cruise in April 2011. We have really enjoyed entertaining the passengers on board Destiny, formerly Sunbird, for MyTravel and then Thomsons but as Mart says, "nothing is for ever!" Apparently the cruise this year will be for adults only (no under-sixteens, the book says), and will be a dance-cruise with an 11-piece dance band on board providing the music, with an obvious slant towards "Strictly Come Dancing". Many people ask how the band was booked for the cruises in the first place. Mart's answer is that the band was in the right place at the right time. The band was playing for a chap's retirement party at Cheetham Hill Cricket Club and everybody was having a marvellous time. At the end a lady came up and asked Mart for his card. He wanted to know what she had in mind and was very surprised when she said that she was a director of Airtours and she felt that the band would be just right for one of their cruises. She was dead right, and Mart gave her a CD. The rest is history!

**BURTON-ON-TRENT JAZZ CLUB:** This club will celebrate 50 years on 14<sup>th</sup> April, and the band is delighted to be invited by Ray to play for the jazz fans there on that important night. Looking through our Newsletters, we see that No. 12 issued in December 1993 refers to the band being booked to play for the Burton Jazz Club's forthcoming 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday! The venue nowadays is at the Social Club for Marston's Brewery which is much larger than the original home of Burton Jazz Club. We have happy memories of where we first played for this club – it was held in the Bridge Brewery in a small upstairs room with a blazing coal fire! On one occasion Pat Bebbly organized for a bus to take jazz fans from Didsbury for the evening. On the way back the bus's headlights failed and the poor driver had to make his way back through the unlit roads to Ashbourne and then on to Buxton and Manchester on his sidelights. At one stage a car driver realized what was happening and drove in front of the bus so that the driver had the benefit of his headlights. However, we were all home pretty late as the driver could not go fast at any part of the journey. Pat Bebbly, incidentally, helped all the jazz musicians about this time by starting up her "Independent Jazz List" which sold records which were unavailable in the shops for many bands in this country and abroad. Unfortunately it doesn't exist now.

**CROFT VILLAGE MEMORIAL HALL:**

We have played at this venue a few times in the past, latterly for the charity AudMed, which raises money to help people with hearing difficulties in poor countries. Mart has decided to play another gig for this cause, which will be at Croft Memorial Hall, Warrington, on 17<sup>th</sup> December. Tickets are available on 01925-828441, and, like Goostrey, it will be a BYO event, which means you bring your own drinks and snacks! Further bookings have already been made for events at Croft in 2011.