

<p>MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ</p> <p>NEWSLETTER NO. 65 APRIL 2011</p>	<p>We are very sorry to inform all our friends of the sad death of Pauline Browne, dearly loved wife of Roger. Pauline has been very seriously ill for quite a long time and has been in St. Ann's Hospice, where she has had brilliant nursing. Pauline was a great singer and actress and she appeared in many shows and musicals, where she and Roger also directed at the Plaza as well as other theatres. While she has been so ill, the band has been appearing as a six-piece temporarily as Roger has been nursing her at home. We all send our sympathy and condolences to Roger, Viki and Ed.</p>
<p>GIGS IN BUXTON: The band will be playing a lunchtime gig at Buxton Arts Centre on Sunday, 1st May. Two gigs are planned during the Buxton Fringe Festival and these will be at the Railway Hotel, Buxton on Fridays 8th and 22nd July at 8.00.</p>	<p>JAZZNORTHWEST Our good friend, Fred Burnett, runs a website, jazznorthwest.co.uk which is a mine of information for musicians and jazz fans regarding all things to do with traditional jazz in the northwest. If you want to know "What's On", where the jazz clubs are, and all about the bands, this is the place to look. Fred was interviewed for a Radio 4 programme at the suggestion of singer, Sue Parrish. She had nominated Fred for the iPM New Year's Honour, and the interview was played on iPM on Radio 4 at 5.30 New Year's Day. The interview lasted about eight minutes, and was most interesting as Fred explained how and why he set up his website in the first place. We were knocked out when Fred mentioned the band, and some of "Sensation Rag" from our CD Tasty Jazz was played.</p>
<p>INVERNESS: Some time ago Shirley and Gary Fewster invited Mart and Janet to stay with them in Strathpeffer so that Mart could play with the Ness River Rhythm Kings at their regular Tuesday jazz club at the Glen Mhor in Inverness. A second visit was at the end of March and Mart played all evening again when the audience was treated to an exciting duet on "East Coast Trot" from Mart and the resident clarinet-player, Mike MacKenzie.</p>	<p>THE KEN BRUCE SHOW: Ken Bruce has a regular spot on his Radio 2 programme each morning, when at 10.30 he has a Popmaster Quiz. Claire Rodger's boyfriend, Tim Eastwood, who plays guitar with the "Beavers", took part in this quiz on his birthday in March. Following the quiz he had a few minutes conversation with Ken and after mentioning his own family and Claire he said: "and Claire's Mum and Dad, Mart and Janet Rodger, he's a musician as well - Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz". "Oh, I've heard of him", said Ken Bruce, "Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz". "Yes, I thought you might have", replied Tim, "and we were out for his birthday celebrations last night in Manchester". "Is he still playing" asked Ken, "Oh yes, cruises and everything" replied Tim. "What a man!" said Ken. It is a number of years now since the band was commissioned by the BBC to make recordings at Pebble Mill and Manchester for various shows, and some of these were played over a four-week period on the Ken Bruce show, amongst others.</p>
<p>POYNTON ROYAL BRITISH LEGION: A good deal of refurbishment has taken place at this venue during the ten years the band has been playing there. The big lounge that we play in on the third Thursday of each month had a great deal of work done on it a few years ago, and now the refurbishment of the Ladies' cloakroom should be finished before our gig there on 21st April. Massive thanks to the Chairman of Poynton British Legion, Paul Hessian, who works very hard for the club and doesn't mind getting his hands dirty!</p>	<p>YOUTUBE: Mart has received many comments about his joke on YouTube, "Blues for Rafa Nadal". The band has been performing a new number called "The River's Taking Care Of Me" and they made a short DVD of it recently. The DVD also uses film of the otters at the Chestnut Centre, Chapel-en-le-Frith, High Peak. It is hoped that this will be seen on YouTube very soon</p>
<p>IN LOVING MEMORY: Mart's version of "Amazing Grace" on "Allmart" has been heard at funerals at Stockport Crematorium and also at Macclesfield. It appears that it is on the list of available music at both. Has anyone heard it anywhere else?</p>	<p>CONGRATULATIONS: To Colin, who celebrated his 80th birthday on 9th March. Colin is one of the founder members of the band, but he played professionally in the sixties and seventies with several bands at home and abroad, including Freddie Randall, Ken Simm's Vintage Jazzband, the Piccadilly Six (Switzerland) and with George Chisholm. He also appeared on four of the Louis Armstrong concerts when he was with the Terry Lightfoot band.</p>
<p>POACHERS INN, BOLLINGTON: Mart was contacted by Jilly, daughter of jazzfan Dorothy Davies and was asked to bring some of the band to play at her funeral. Dorothy and her husband, John, had followed the band for several years and she went to live in Bollington after he died. To follow on from this, Jilly has arranged for the Quartet to play a lunchtime session at the Poachers in aid of her charity, C.R.E.A.M. Lunch will be included in the ticket price of £12. To book tickets, please ring 01625-431750 or 07799 034840.</p>	

BAND IN NORWAY It was great to be invited to play once more at the Stavanger Tradjazz Weekend. We were asked to travel two days early to play at Bryne and Egersund before our four gigs in Stavanger. We were met at the airport and taken by road to Bryne, where we stayed at the Jaeren Hotel. A meal had been arranged for us and after that we were taken to Klepp, where there is a most attractive new village hall just off the beach. This was the venue for the first concert, which was very well-attended by the audience, who rushed in to claim their seats as soon as the doors were opened. A great evening followed. After the concert the musicians were given a mug each, inscribed: "Fullmane kveldane, Klepp" from their "Full Moon Evening" festival. Next morning we needed to leave by train for Egersund and Mart amazed everyone with his talent at buying the correct train tickets at a machine. (Actually, he had already been to the station and had been shown how to use the machine by a kind Norwegian!) The train journey of about 75 minutes was very good and we travelled through some lovely places, some covered in snow. We were met at the station in Egersund and taken to the Grand Hotel, where we stayed, which was the venue for the evening's performance. Egersund is another very nice Norwegian town and everyone enjoyed our second concert. A man at the bar asked Mart if he supported Manchester United or Manchester City. Mart explained that as his elder son, Simon, is a keen ManU supporter, he follows that team too. The chap agreed that he also supports ManU, and then he amazed Mart by telling him that his main support is for Macclesfield Town! A lady was taking a lot of photos for the local newspaper and we received a copy by e-mail a few days later. This showed four of the band playing, with Chris on washboard. We can't tell what the report said, but were assured by our friend, Ernst, that it was very complimentary. Next morning we were taken back to the station to catch an express train back to Stavanger, where we were met by our friends from the Tradjazz Weekend. After booking in briefly at the Skagen Brygge Hotel and saying "Hello again" to our friends at reception, we were taken to the Seniors' Community Centre, Skipper Worse Ledaal, for a short gig. We were amazed to see a very large crowd of people at this lunchtime session who we recognized from our various trips to Stavanger. The big room was packed with most of the seats already taken, and many people standing. This short session was very well-received by the enthusiastic audience, and many friends came over to say how pleased they were to see the band again. On Friday evening the band played at the hotel, Skagen Brygge, the venue also for Saturday afternoon. This is the regular jazz club session organized by Petter Moldestad where the band has played on many occasions including the gig when we were there in November. Our final performance on Saturday night was at Sjohusene and we were pleased when a young couple came up to say "hello", reminding us that the band played at their wedding in Didsbury, five years ago, before they went to live in Stavanger. A chap came up to Mart at the Skagen Brygge on Saturday to say he had been at Southern Cemetery, Manchester, when the quartet was playing at a funeral.

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
 1st May Buxton Arts Centre 1.00 to 2.00
 1st May also Wilbraham Arms, Alsager 8.00
 9th May Poachers Inn, Bollington 12.00 Tickets reqd.
 30th May Barnsley Jazz Club, Silkstone Lodge S75 4LY 8.30
 4th June Wincle Fete 2.00 p.m.
 10th June Croft Memorial Hall, Warrington 8.00
 11th June Larkhill Centre, Timperley 7.30
 19th June Disley Golf Club 3.00 All Welcome!
 25th June Boston Spa 8.30
 2nd July Fulwood Old Chapel, 7.30 Tickets reqd.
 8th July Buxton Fringe Festival, Railway Hotel, 8.00
 15th July Cilcain Village Hall, N. Wales 8.00
 22nd July Buxton Fringe, Railway Hotel, 8.00
 28th July Unwin Road Jazz Club, Sutton in Ashfield NG17 4HN 8.30
 31st July Wilbraham Arms, Alsager 8.00
 15th August Eagley Jazz Club 8.30
 26th August Sale Conservative Club 8.30
 3rd Sept. Goostrey Village Hall 8.00 01477-537970
 16th Sept. Croft Memorial Hall, Warrington. 8.00
 18th Sept. Rochdale Jazz Club 8.00

MEMORIES OF "THE HOUNDS OF SOUND": We had another visit from Ron and Brenda Barker recently, who took the opportunity to come North to hear the band on three consecutive nights. Ron was still at school when he was the trumpet-player in the Hounds of Sound, Mart's band which he formed on his return from National Service in Egypt and Cyprus. Ron had discovered some interesting minutes of band meetings hidden away in his loft and couldn't wait to show them to us! John Mayall was in the band at the time, and the dates of the meetings were in October 1956! A mention is made of a gig the band played at Leeds University and questions were asked why the band had not been paid yet. Mart had found out that the agent was paid up-front, so a strong letter was sent to him threatening further action. He was very cross about it. (We can't tell you his full name, but the initials P. McK. should be a good clue!)

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS OR YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU DON'T, WE WILL LOSE TOUCH WITH YOU AND YOU WON'T GET OUR NEWS.

IN AID OF ST. ANN'S HOSPICE: The band played at Poynton Methodist Church recently, an event to raise money for St. Ann's Hospice. We were so pleased to see such support from Church members and jazz fans. 150 people turned up for the evening and the sum of £800 was raised for the Hospice.

MART RODGER MANAGEMENT:

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