

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 70
APRIL 2013

Welcome to our 70th Newsletter! Perhaps we should put them all in a book! However, here is the latest news from the band.

COLIN: We are sorry to tell you that our bass-player, Colin Smith, has decided to leave the band after playing for all the 29 years since the formation of the band in 1983. Colin has been a great asset to the band and his three compositions that have been recorded on CDs have been very popular. These are, "I Believe In Rainbows", "Saving All My Pennies" and "Gospel Train". Colin had started playing in his hometown of Carlisle with the Gateway Jazz Band and then he moved to London to play professionally with the Terry Lightfoot Band among others. He went to live in Switzerland too where he was based with the Piccadilly Six before returning home to play with various bands around Manchester and becoming a founder member of Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz. We wish Colin all the best on his retirement.

LOUIS LINCE: We are very pleased to welcome Louis Lince to the band. He was very well-known with the bands in London for a number of years and was very much in demand as a Reviewer and Publisher. He relocated back to the North West a few years ago. His exceptional banjo/guitar playing is a great contribution to the band. Moving from the North West to London in 1958, he was a semi-pro musician with Mac's New Orleans Band, the Dave Bailey Trio and the Savoy Jazzmen. He also played and recorded with the Ken Colyer All-Star touring band. Louis was a full-time musician from 1988, having formed Louis Lince's New Orleans Band, then was a member of Monty Sunshine's Band until Monty's retirement in 2000. Louis relocated back to the North West in 2002 and played with Martin Bennett's Old Green River Band before joining the Savannah Jazz Band, which he left recently. He is a regular visitor to New Orleans and is well-known there. He is also to be heard on many recordings.

THE CINNAMON CLUB: Many years ago Mart played at Bowdon Assembly Rooms quite regularly when he was in the Mike Martin Band. One summer evening Humphrey Lyttelton was playing with them there and there happened to be a power cut. However, the band played on – acoustically – and everyone had a great time in the semi-dark! Nowadays the building is well-known as The Cinnamon Club and the band played there a few times some years ago. Mart has wanted to start up a regular afternoon gig in the Altrincham area ever since the one in another clubroom failed because the club members were getting in for nothing! The owners of the Cinnamon Club are agreeable to the idea of an afternoon gig, and the first one is to be held there on Thursday, 25th April from 2.00 p.m. to 4.30. We hope it will be well-attended.

36th TRIP TO PLAY IN NORWAY: We were invited to take part once again at the Stavanger Tradjazz Weekend and flew out on 25th January. It was great to arrive there, realizing that this was the 36th trip the band had made to Norway! We have made many friends there over the years and would like to thank Peter Moldestat for introducing us to Stavanger in the first place when his Dad, Per, his uncle Jan, and good friend Odd, saw the band at the Haugesund Jazz Festival in 1992. Our visits to Norway actually started when we were invited to play at Drammen two years before for the 35th anniversary of our friends playing in the Royal Garden Jazz Band. The main office for the Stavanger Tradjazz Weekend had always been at the Skagen Brygge Hotel, but this year there were big building improvements going on there so the Victoria Hotel was the base for the activities. It was disappointing that Ian MacCann was going skiing that week and we had to travel without a banjo/guitar player. As it happened, Louis Lince became available but it was too late for the tickets for him to travel. Allan Dent was not coming with us and Mart was very lucky that Pete Brown came along from the Midlands to join the band for that weekend. Pete knows all the tunes the band plays and it was a pleasure to have him along together with his wife, Carla. The band played at the Victoria Hotel on Friday and Saturday evenings and enjoyed a Saturday afternoon session at Skiphusene. Some of us enjoy dining at the Tandoori Restaurant in Stavanger, and it was as good as it always has been! We returned home on Sunday morning.

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PLEASE NOTE: We do not use a Post Office Box Number any more

CHRIS BROWN: Chris, who passed away recently, was a dental student in Manchester when he first started visiting the jazz clubs. He joined the Red River Jazzmen on trombone while still a student, but had to give up playing regularly when he qualified. However, like Mart, he was chosen by pianist, John Featherstone, to join the band selected to record an LP for George Buck's Jazzology label in the States. At this time George was based in Atlanta, but he later moved to New Orleans where his record business is still operating, together with his wife, Nina's, Jazz Cafe. The LP recorded all those years ago was called "Feeling the Spirit" and John Featherstone named the band, "The Canal Street Ragtimers". Visiting New Orleans some years later, Chris called to see George Buck and introduced himself. George was very pleased to meet him. In the time Chris was a student, he used to say to his friends, "Let's go down to the Clarendon and annoy Janet!" Every Friday the Zenith Six played at the Clarendon Hotel, which was on Oxford Road. (It was knocked down in the building of the Mancunian Way.) The students would arrive at the Clarendon when Janet was helping with the door, and they always tried to get in at a "student price" - it never worked!

JUBILEE: In the weeks before the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Weekend Mart had been researching a tune he had heard of entitled "Jubilee". On the Sunday of this event the band had been booked to play an afternoon gig at the Poynton Community Hall and the band rehearsed the number to play it for the first time at this venue. The room was packed with over 150 people and the afternoon was a great success.

ST. ANN'S HOSPICE: In April last year the band played at Cheadle Hulme Players' Theatre in a concert to raise money for the Pauline Browne Memorial Fund at St. Ann's Hospice, where Pauline died the year before. This concert will take place again on Saturday, April 20th, and we hope another large donation will be going to the Hospice in Pauline's name. The tickets have all been sold and we hope for another very successful evening.

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

Our residencies are at the bottom of the next column.

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| 20th April | Cheadle Hulme Players Theatre SK8 5EX Tickets all sold |
| 25th April | Cinnamon Club, Bowdon. 2.00 p.m. |
| 2nd May | Unwin Road Jazz Club |
| 5th May | Rochdale Jazz Club |
| 9th May | Keswick Jazz Festival, Skiddaw Hotel Mid-day |
| 15th June | St. John's Church Hall, Sandiway |
| 29th June | Heald Green Village Festival Afternoon |
| 6th July | Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield. |
| 15th July | Eagley Jazz Club |
| 20th July | Goostrey Village Hall, tkts. 01477-537970 |
| 1st Sept. | Stafford Jazz Society ST16 3BX |
| 19th Oct. | Calver Village Hall |
| 31st Oct. | Unwin Road Jazz Club |
| 9th Nov. | Goostrey Village Hall |
| 30th Nov. | Cilcain Village Hall, North Wales CH7 5NN |

POYNTON METHODIST CHURCH: The band played another concert at Poynton Methodist Church and we were delighted to see that 150 people turned up for the event. Once again this concert was to raise money for charity and we were very pleased to be told at the end of the evening that £1,000 was the total amount, which would be split between East Cheshire Hospice and the Church's Vision Group projects.

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL: We are very near to our target of raising £10,000 for St. Luke's Hospice at Winsford. The gigs at Goostrey Village started several years ago and their success has been due to the dedicated work in selling tickets by firstly, Pat Carson (now Pat Jones), and then the efforts of Brian Lancaster and Denis Eberall. With the expectation of achieving the target of £10,000 with the next concert on the 20th July, we will have to choose the amount for our new target!

REG KENWORTHY: All the musicians knew Reg who played double-bass for years with the Saints Jazz Band and who was with them when they were very famous in the 1950s. Reg "depped" with the band on many occasions and also played with Mart in Ged Hone's band, The Deep Sea Six. He died recently after quite a long illness and, similar to the funeral of Pete Staples, the musicians gathered at the gate to Stockport Crematorium to play Reg to his final service. They included: Mart, Ged Hone, Eric, Joe Silmon, Colin, Howard Murray, Ray Owen, Tony Dunleavy and Brian Woods.

OUR REGULAR JAZZ CLUB RESIDENCIES:

1st Monday of every month:
High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Rd. SK6 8DR
8.00 6th May 3rd June 1st July 5th Aug. etc

3rd Thursday of every month:
Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. SK12 1JY
8.00 16th May 20th June 18th July 15th August etc.