

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

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BBC TV NEWS: It was decided by the NHS to celebrate their 65th anniversary from its inception at the Trafford General Hospital, where it began. The band quintet was booked to play outside the Hospital on the actual day, but they were surprised to find that a demonstration march took place there, which was organized by the Union. However, because of this the media were there and as a result the boys were seen on the BBC News at Ten programme that night, and again next morning. (Mart, Eric, Chris, Ken and Louis). It was a very brief viewing – Mart said about eight bars when they were playing “All of Me”. However, it was surprising how many people have mentioned that they saw it.

BANGOR RACES: We hear from Jacki and Bob, who are regulars at our club in High Lane, that they visited Bangor Races recently. Bob noticed that a horse called “St. Thomas” was in the fourth race, so he suggested to Jacki that as it was her favourite number she should put some money on it. Jacki did so, and the horse romped home! Jacki had a nice pay-out. Did Bob back it? Oh dear, he backed something else! We’ll have to watch when “St. Thomas” is running again.

PHOTOGRAPHS: Once again, we thank David Buszard for bringing his camera to the Royal Legion club at Poynton to take some more photos of the band. They are really great, David. Thank you very much. They are already on the band website!

KESWICK JAZZ FESTIVAL: It was good to be invited back to play once again at the Keswick Jazz Festival, which is always well attended. The band were booked to play at the Skiddaw Hotel in the centre of Keswick for the Thursday afternoon and were delighted to see the room fill up well before they started. There were no seats left and the audience gave the band a great reception. We have been booked for next year’s Festival already, and have also received a booking to appear at one of the events organized by Val Hopkins at the Red Lion Hotel in Grasmere. This will be on 8th July 2014.

KEN MARLEY - DOUBLE BASS: We have been very fortunate to find a great bass-player to replace Colin, who resigned from the band recently. Ken Marley will be playing at most of our gigs now and we are delighted to welcome him into the band. Ken is an exceptional addition to the rhythm section, producing a solid backing for our music. Audiences and fellow band members have commented on his contribution and creativity in his solos. Ken’s skill with his bow proves his accuracy as a bass player.

FREDDY RANDALL: On a week’s holiday in the Lake District recently, Mart recalled how in the 60s he took the family to stay at a lovely farm in Hawkshead. Just before he left home he had a call from the London band led by Freddy Randall, and was invited to play a gig with them in a few days’ time. When he explained that he would have to turn down the offer as he would be in the Lakes on holiday, he was told that the venue was Whitehaven, so he was able to accept the gig. Looking on the map that day (well before SatNav!) he could see what looked like a pretty direct route. However, on driving through the Hard Knott pass and the Wrynose pass that evening he had chance to wonder if the dangerous road was the best choice. The farmer’s wife was shocked when he admitted next day at breakfast that he had driven that route in the dark.

CHEADLE HULME PLAYERS THEATRE: Once again the band was in concert at this great venue in an effort to raise more money for the Pauline Browne Memorial Fund at St. Ann’s Hospice. Another large amount was raised again from the capacity audience,

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JAZZ IN MANCHESTER - EARLY DAYS: The Zenith Six played every Friday night at the Clarendon Hotel on Oxford Road in Manchester. Mart was nearly 21 when he joined them, taking the place of Bob Wright, who had emigrated to Canada. (Bob replaced John Barnes who had left for fame and fortune in London). The band was very popular and played at many other venues as well as this weekly gig. Looking through the book, "The Best Of Cellars" by Phil Thompson, we see how many times the Zenith Six played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool before the Beatles took over. Janet bought this book at Heathrow Airport some years ago on our way to one of the Jazz Festivals we played at in California. There is also mention of some other local bands, one of which is the "Allan Dent Jazz Band"! Mart reminisced recently about the night the Zenith 6 was playing at a jazz club in Queen Street in Manchester when an American chap came in holding his instrument case. During a chat in the interval he revealed that he was in town for his concert with the Dave Brubeck Quartet and that he was Paul Desmond. They were amazed that he had turned up to hear the band, and even more amazed when he asked if he could sit in! It was a memorable night indeed. However, some years later the Clarendon was pulled down to make way for the Mancunian Way which was a great loss. One Saturday afternoon in 1990 Mart decided to take the band to Oxford Road to play for an hour or two on the pavement where the pub had been. This was a Festival day for Manchester's Olympic bid and Mart invited representatives from the National Children's Homes to be there with collecting boxes. As some band members were away, Chris's Dad Alan Pendlebury played with the band as well as Dave Berry and Tony Pollitt. Claire Rodger recalls hearing the music as far away as Albert Square! That afternoon an onlooker asked one of the jazz fans there, "Is this modern jazz then?" The jazz fan replied, kindly, "No dear, this is proper jazz".

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL: We have now passed the magic figure of £10,000 as our gift to St. Luke's Hospice at Winsford through our regular concerts at Goostrey Village Hall. On 21st July our donation from the concert was £343.00. This was paid in two cheques, the first for £140.00, which brought our total to the exact £10,000. The remainder of the money, being £203.00 was paid in a second cheque and is the start to the next £10,000! We thank everyone in the audience for supporting our events there, and for their generosity in buying the raffle tickets.

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 7th Oct.
4th Nov. 2nd Dec. etc.

3rd Thursday of every month:

Poynton British Legion Georges Rd. West SK12 1JY
8.00 17th Oct. 21st Nov. 19th Dec. etc.

4th Thursday of month:

Cinnamon Club, Bowden. WA14 2TQ 24th Oct.
28th Nov. 11th Dec.

19th Oct. Calver Village Hall Tickets required

31st Oct. Unwin Road Jazz Club

2nd Nov. Poynton Methodist Church 7.30

9th Nov. Goostrey Village Hall
Tickets 01477- 537970

30th Nov. Cilcain Village Hall, North Wales
CH7 5NN

7th Dec. Trafford Centre Bandstand 7.00 p.

31st Dec. The Plough Inn, Hathersage for New Year's Eve dinner and celebrations. Tickets required

THE CINNAMON CLUB: The new residency at this club is being well attended, and we look forward to more great afternoons there. The regular dates are on the 4th Thursday of each month and the session starts at 2.00 p.m. finishing at 4.30. However, as the December date is too close to the Christmas events, the band will be playing there on Wednesday, 11th December instead, still at 2.00 p.m. The audience will be extended by a number of people who attend another event there, Vibrant Voices. There will be quite a party atmosphere that afternoon as a number of songs will be on the screen in the second half, suggested by Mart. The first session there was held in the upstairs room, which was too small for the number who turned up so all the sessions are now held in the large room downstairs.

JAZZOLOGY RECORDS: Mart has had the pleasure of recording for George H. Buck Jnr. for his Jazzology Records and GHB records on eight occasions over many years. Two of them are by Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz, one of which was "Jazz Tale of Two Cities". This was originally issued on LP in 1988, and features Mart, Allan, Eric, Colin, Bob Ascough, Pete Staples and Joe Palin. Some years ago George Buck Jnr. issued this on CD and we have been selling it since. The second CD is called "1997 Recordings for George H. Buck Jnr." and has also been available for quite some time. However, when we run out of copies of these two CDs we need to re-order them from George's premises in New Orleans, which we did recently. We have now received a further supply which Janet will have on band gigs.