

# MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 73 SEPTEMBER 2014

ALLAN DENT: We were happy to say in the last Newsletter that our trumpet-player Allan Dent, after illness, had returned to playing again. We are sorry that Allan's specialist has now decided that he is to have surgery after all and he is not to play his trumpet until this has been done. We wish Allan all the best for a swift recovery, but unfortunately he does not have a date yet for the operation.

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BRANKSOME FUNCTION ROOMS, TIMPERLEY: We started playing at this new venue in April after leaving the Cinnamon Club where problems soon became apparent. This room is very pleasant and we were thrilled when we arrived for the July booking to find that they have excellent, quiet, air-conditioning! It was an exceptionally hot day and it was a joy for the musicians to play in such comfort – good for the audience too! For any of our friends who find steps a little difficult, there is a back door to the room where the band take in the instruments and PA gear. After entering the car park, take the right fork which leads to the back entrance.

PURE BUXTON REVIEW OF CONCERT AT PAVILION ARTS CENTRE: It was a nice surprise to see a review of our concert in the Pure Buxton magazine. We weren't aware that anyone from this publication was there to report it until a neighbour picked up a copy in Buxton and brought it across to show to Mart. The item by their Arts Critic, Waldorf, read "You really don't have to be a jazz aficionado to enjoy a lunchtime in the company of Mart Rodger's jazz band. With his infectious grin, engaging patter and sheer love of his music, clarinetist Mart makes an effective frontman. All that enthusiasm really does rub off. And these boys can play, even without their pianist (off with arthritis). They'll have been together for 30 years come October, performing in the US, Germany and Norway alongside Buxton. They could probably do it with their eyes shut, but there's nothing jaded about Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz and their playlist of traditional and Dixieland jazz – including one of their leader's own compositions. The band plainly enjoyed playing in the Pavilion Arts Centre as part of its Sunday lunchtime jazz series. And for an audience of young and not-so-young, the feeling was obviously mutual." The reviewer then mentioned our regular performances at High Lane Conservative Club and the Buxton Fringe concerts in July.

HENRY HOLLOWAY: In our last Newsletter, we mentioned Mart's friendship with South African Radio Presenter Henry Holloway. At one of our gigs recently there was a couple who had read about this in our last Newsletter and they came over to Mart at the interval. They told him they were from South Africa and are very familiar with Henry's music programmes! What a coincidence!

CONCERT WITH STOCKPORT BARBERSHOP: A few years ago the band was booked to play a concert with this local barbershop choir and we have been invited to take part with them again. This event will be at Romiley Forum on 12<sup>th</sup> October and promises to be a very good evening.

30 YEAR ANNIVERSARY FOR THE BAND: On October 4<sup>th</sup> 1984 the band made its debut. This followed a holiday in New Orleans where Mart was invited to sit in at Maison Bourbon with Lou Sino and The Bengals. He had asked if he could sit in and was told it was not allowed. However, spotting his North of England accent, one of the musicians in the band asked him if he knew anyone on the Jazzology LP "Feelin' The Spirit" by the Canal Street Ragtimers, a Manchester band organized by pianist, John Featherstone, at the request of record producer George H. Buck. When Mart said that he was the clarinetist on that recording he was asked to go and get his instrument and join in with them! He ended up playing with the next band on the bill too! Later that evening he decided to start a new band as soon as he got home, and that is where Manchester Jazz began. Allan Dent, Eric Brierley and Colin Smith were all in the band with Mart on day one. The 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary will be celebrated at all the gigs in October.

**KIRCUDBRIGHT JAZZ FESTIVAL:** We were invited to return to this Festival after having missed out for a few years. A family comes to the Festival each year whose son has all our records and likes to play "air-banjo" as the band plays. He also salutes the musicians with his hat after solos. One time Mart asked him if he'd like to "dep" on a number so he got up and played "air-banjo" with the band. He was really chuffed and the family, the audience and the band enjoyed it too!

**JAZZ WEEKENDS IN THE LAKE DISTRICT:** For some years we have been involved in the Jazz Weekends in Ambleside and Grasmere for Val Hopkins who runs these short jazz breaks. We played for Val at one of these recently and it was good to meet up with some old friends!

**BUXTON FRINGE CONCERT REVIEW:** We had a good review of our concert in Buxton on July 22<sup>nd</sup> on their website. Keith Savage, the Fringe Organiser, wrote that Mart had chosen the Methodist Church as the venue as there is a very fine grand piano there and that Roger had relished the opportunity of spreading out in a way that is so much harder on an electric keyboard. He mentioned a highlight being Eric's feature, "The Lord Is Listening To Me" saying that Eric had played it at his wedding to Maggi. Keith listed most of the tunes played but pointed out that there would be a different set of numbers for the second appearance on the Saturday night. He continued, "These guys must have played some of these tunes hundreds of times and could play them in their sleep – but it is a testament to their genuine love of the music, the enjoyment they get from playing and the enjoyment they want to give audiences that there is no letting up in their playing. It was probably the hottest day of the year in Buxton and Mart observed that only he and the band were wearing ties – and he seemed to doubt that they would keep them on for two hours. So relentless was the entertainment that they had not time to take them off". To read the whole of Keith's review, go to Buxton Fringe, scroll down to 2014 Reviews, then Music, and this is the 7<sup>th</sup> item there.

**MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:**

**1st Monday of every month:**

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 p.m. 1st Sept. 6th Oct. 3rd Nov. 1st Dec. 5th Jan. etc.

**3rd Thursday of every month:**

Poynton British Legion Georges Rd. West SK12 1JY 8.00 p.m. 18th Sept. 16th Oct. 20th Nov, 18th Dec. 15th Jan. etc.

**4th Thursday of month:** Branksome Function Suite, 36 Clay Lane, Timperley. WA15 7AB 2.00 p.m. 25th Sept. 23rd Oct. 27th Nov. 22nd Jan. etc. December date to be arranged.

- 3rd Sept. Risley Park, nr. Derby 8.30
- 11th Sept. Saga short break at the Imperial Hotel, Blackpool,
- 12th Sept. Disley Golf Club for Disley Parish Plan 7.30 p.m.  
Mart's Manjazz 4
- 27th Sept. Cantata Music Festival, Poynton Legion 2.00 p.m.
- 10th Oct. Marsden Jazz Festival 9.00 p.m.
- 11th Oct. Poynton Methodist Church 7.30 p.m.
- 12th Oct. Romiley Forum with Harmony Revival
- 17th Oct. St. John's Church, Sandiway 7.30 p.m.
- 18th Oct. Calver Village Hall
- 20th Oct. Eagley Jazz Club
- 25th Oct. Cheadle Hulme Methodist Church
- 8th Nov. Goostrey Village Hall 8.00 p.m. Tks; 01477-537970
- 16th Nov. Stafford Jazz Society
- 22nd Nov. Cilcain Village Hall 7.30
- 11th Dec. Glossop Jazz Club

**CARL GRESHAM:** We first met Carl on one of our Transatlantic cruises with MyTravel where he bought a copy of every one of our recordings and played them regularly on his radio shows. He invited Mart over to Bradford one time to record a programme talking together and playing some tracks. Recently he has played some again on his show on CBC Radio which is a local radio station, and he has sent us CDs of the programmes. He was a particular fan of singer, Marion Montgomery so tracks from our CD with Marion, "Makin' Whoopee" were featured as well as some from "Allmart". It was nice to hear these recordings being played on radio again. To hear Carl's broadcasts if you are in the Bradford area, you can hear the programme on 106.6 FM. Alternatively, it is available on the website, [www.bcbradio.co.uk](http://www.bcbradio.co.uk) The timing is Mondays at 1.00 p.m. repeated on Tuesday at 9.00 a.m.

**MARSDEN JAZZ FESTIVAL:** This is one of the UK's longest established Jazz Festivals and it is some years since we played there. We look forward to being there again on 10th October where we will be playing at the Marsden Socialist Club.

**KESWICK JAZZ FESTIVAL:** We were pleased to be invited again to appear at the Keswick Jazz Festival this year. This is such a well-attended festival and it is always a great pleasure to join in and be a part of it!