

# MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 67 NOVEMBER 2011

**CHARITY NIGHT AT MOTTRAM-ST-ANDREW VILLAGE HALL:** Ian Price was the artist famous for his local scenes featured in his paintings and seen on his cards and calendars. Ian was a very keen supporter of the East Cheshire Hospice and would regularly organize concerts with the band to help the charity. Some of these concerts took place at the Poynton Sports Club, and then in larger halls, the Silk Heritage Centre in Macclesfield was one. The later concerts were actually at his old school, Kings School, Macclesfield, where Roger would enjoy playing the wonderful grand piano. Since Ian's death some time ago Mart had decided to run a concert which would benefit the East Cheshire Hospice in his name. As we know what a fantastic place St. Ann's Hospice is as well, the Charity Night at Mottram-St-Andrew on 13<sup>th</sup> November also benefitted St. Ann's Hospice for the memory of Roger's wife, Pauline Browne. It was wonderful that so many people turned up for this event and we are really pleased to be able to report that the sum of £1160.00 was divided between the two charities.

**OUR NEW WEBSITE:** We are delighted with our new website, [www.manchesterjazz.co.uk](http://www.manchesterjazz.co.uk) which has been created by Mart's grandson, Alex Rodger. The website will be updated regularly and some more features will be added. We are pleased that Alex was able to transfer the You-Tube DVDs over to it. Mart called Fred Burnett, [jazznorthwest.co.uk](http://jazznorthwest.co.uk) to let him know about the new website and when Fred had looked at it his reply was, "Does he give lessons?" Come on, Fred, your own website is brilliant and you certainly don't need any lessons!

**IAN McCANN:** We reported in the last newsletter that Ian was to replace Charlie Bentley on banjo/guitar. We have known Ian for many years and he has "depped" with the band quite often. Ian plays banjo and guitar. He actually started playing jazz at the age of 16 when he played clarinet, but changed to banjo two years later. Previous bands include Wigan's Rainy City Jazz Band and The Vintage Syncopators while he has been associated with his most recent band for the last 35 years! Ian runs a jazz night every fortnight at the Devonshire Arms, near his home in Mellor, featuring local musicians in a quartet format and sometimes his fellow musicians in Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz are invited to take part. Ian's influences are Johnny Bastable, banjo, and Eddie Lang, guitar.

**MART ON HOLIDAY:** During a holiday recently in the USA, while on the tourist tram viewing the sites of Boston, Mart was in conversation with an American chap. When Mart spoke of playing at Jazz Festivals in California, Montana and Arizona, he was asked if he had ever met Bob Storms. Well, Bob had played in the 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Jazz Band, who were great friends of ours. They came over from San Jose, California, to take part in Jazz Festivals here and had been at the same Festivals we had played in the States, so the answer was "yes, I do know Bob Storms"! When we arrived back home there was an e-mail from Bob to let us know that his friend had been on to report meeting Mart!

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY  
NEW YEAR 2012

WITH BEST WISHES FROM MART, ALLAN, ERIC, COLIN,  
CHRIS, ROGER AND IAN!

## VISITING ISLE OF ARRAN:

A short break at Brodick, Isle of Arran, saw Mart in the local Co-op making a purchase. The chap at the till suddenly said, "Mart Rodger?" Apparently the till operator had moved to Arran from Yorkshire but had seen Mart quite often at the Station Tavern, Huddersfield, when the band used to fill in for the Savannah Jazz Band when they were playing elsewhere, also when Mart was "depping" with the Savannah. Originally there was a band on Arran called the Wee Swing Band, and Mart used to join in with them whenever he was on Arran, but it had folded some time ago. A new band has now taken their place on the island, known as the Jazz Cafe Band. Mart enjoyed a pleasant evening having a musical get-together with this band, and sharing some good music! Mart enjoyed playing a clarinet duet with Alison Prince like he has done before!

**"SHAMELESS" TO RADIO 3 IN FIVE WEEKS!:** We were able to report in the last newsletter that five of the band were booked to appear on "Shameless" on Channel 4. After a lengthy day of filming in January 2011, we found that only a few minutes were shown in the programme (Series 8, Episode 14) when it was screened on 30<sup>th</sup> August, but are aware that this is the way films and programmes are put together. We were thrilled later to find that one of our recordings was to be featured on Radio 3, Jazz Record Requests. An old business colleague of Mart's had written in requesting "Mighty Like The Blues" from our CD "T'Ain't Nobody's Bizness If We Do" and let Mart know he had received a card from the programme telling him it would be played on Saturday, 8<sup>th</sup> October. On the morning of the programme Mart was very surprised to receive a phone call from the presenter, Geoffrey Smith, to say that the record had been requested and that it was being played that evening, which was most kind of him. When we found out which record was to be played we were able to phone Jean Collins, widow of Alec Collins, because he was the pianist on that CD. Jean was very pleased we had let her know so she could listen in.

**MARDI GRAS WETHERSPOONS IN THE TRAFFORD CENTRE:** One of the girls who used to work for Mart telephoned recently saying she had seen a photo of him in the Wetherspoons Restaurant in the Mardi Gras area of the Trafford Centre. This was news to us so a trip to the Trafford Centre took place very quickly! Mart remembered being asked a few years ago to supply some photos to go into a display showcasing Manchester musicians, which had been suggested would be going into one of the main Manchester hotels. This didn't materialize, but it would seem that the display in Wetherspoons may have originated from the same source. Funnily enough, on the next wall in a similar frame were photographs of our friend, John Mayall, famous for his "Bluesbreakers" who was appearing in concert at the Bridgewater Hall a few days later. When we saw John before the concert we were able to show him the photos we had taken of the two pictures. There were 4 photos in the frame dedicated to Mart. Top left showed Mart aged 17 and Mart Rodger's Jazz Aces. Also seen were Dizzy Burton, trumpet, Alan Pendlebury (Chris's Dad) on trombone, and Eric Batty (bass), who took over the band when Mart was invited to serve Queen and Country for his National Service in the Army. Lower left shows Mart and Dizzy with Nev Taylor playing drums. Top right shows Eric Batty with Merton Kaufmann on drums. The photo on Lower right is much more recent and shows Mart and Allan playing alongside Nigel Cretney, Colin and Roger (only shows Roger's back!) It was very nice to see these photos displayed in such a prominent position in this stylish bar/restaurant. Pictures of other bands of different types were also seen together with a very large picture taken at one of the Free Trade Hall concerts with Louis Armstrong and two of his musicians. Another frame showed a picture of photographer, Sefton Samuels, who specialized in concert photos. Sefton is the photographer who took pictures of Marion Montgomery at some of the concerts where she sang with the band. In fact, Sefton took the picture on the front cover of our CD with Marion, "Makin' Whoopee".

**JOHN MAYALL CONCERT AT BRIDGEWATER HALL:** The Rodger family turned up in force to see John Mayall in concert with his new line-up. John is still touring for months of each year and he is very happy with his new band. It was good to be invited backstage after the show with more of his friends from way-back-when. (In fact, John's brother-in-law, Howard, was in the same class at Queens Road Primary in Cheadle Hulme as Mart and Janet!).

**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

26th Nov. Goostrey Village Hall 8.00 Tickets: 01477-537970

16th Dec. Croft Village Hall, Warrington. 8.00

15th Jan. Wilbraham Arms

16th Jan. Eagley Jazz Club

25th Jan. Shrimper, Southport

4th Feb. Chinley W.I.

15th Feb. Risley Park Jazz Club

24th Feb. Sale Conservative Club

9th March Goostrey Village Hall

22nd March Unwin Road Jazz Club

24th March Cilcain Village Hall, nr. Mold.

5th April Burton on Trent

29th April Wilbraham Arms, Alsager

4th May Newbold Verdon Jazz Club LE9 9NP

26th May Boston Spa Community Hall

10th June Rochdale Jazz Club

5th July Unwin Road Jazz Club

7th July Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield

27th July Pickering Jazz Festival

**SOUNDS GREAT:** "Sounds Great" is the music shop in Heald Green where Mart buys all his clarinet accessories and where his clarinets and saxophones are always serviced. He was in the shop recently and asked an old friend there if he had seen him on "Shameless". Mart was amused to hear him reply that his wife won't let him watch that programme. However, a music student in the shop overheard the conversation and asked Mart about it. When he told her that it was the episode with the funeral in it she remembered, and answered, "Cool"!

**GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL:** The Goostrey concert is already a "sell-out", and these concerts at the Village Hall have already raised over £7,000 for St. Luke's Hospice, Winsford. We hope that this one will bring the figure up to the £8,000 mark. We thank all the people who buy tickets regularly for their terrific support, and send special thanks to Janet and Brian who do such a Trojan job in handling the ticket sales for us, making it such a success.

**CD OFFER:** We are now copying the supermarkets! If you buy one of our CDs you get the others half-price. We have also reduced the price of our cassette tapes. The Scrappage Scheme took a lot of the older cars off the road, and they were the ones with tape-players.

**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU CHANGE YOUR HOME ADDRESS OR YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS - THANK YOU!**

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