

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 78

MAY 2016

MART'S 80TH BIRTHDAY BASH! We celebrated this happy event with an afternoon concert at Poynton Methodist Church. It was an amazing afternoon and 170 of our friends turned up to wish Mart well and join in the fun. We were very pleased that we had such a large audience, particularly as it was pouring with rain. We received many donations for the two chosen charities as well as a good number of raffle prizes. The amount of money raised totalled £962.40. Some of this total included donations we received by post from friends who were unable to be there on the day. Half of this amount went to the Woodlands Care Home in Poynton, which is a Methodist-run home. The other half of the money was sent to Adopt-A-Child, a charity in Inverness which supports Christian Schools in Guatemala and Albania, where education is provided for the local children. Mart and Janet support twin boys in Guatemala and receive photos and letters regularly. It was very kind of the Church ladies who made the free tea and coffee for all the audience. They also provided biscuits, as the cake cut into 100 pieces and we didn't expect to need a bigger cake! These kind ladies were available to wash up all the cups etc. too, thanks to them all! One of our ladies made the big cake for Mart, thank you Sally! It was wonderful that people were coming to the concert from so many places, Altrincham, Timperley, Hale, Sale, Knutsford, Wilmslow, Manchester. The ones who came the furthest distance were Ron and Brenda who live in Essex. It has been good to re-acquaint with them from so many years ago when Ron played trumpet in Mart Rodger's Hounds of Sound! Mart had just finished his two years National Service in the Army and Ron was still at school. Ron and Brenda's family were amazed when they were told that their Dad had played in a band with John Mayall! However, Ron packed in playing altogether to study and get on with his further education when Mart folded the band a few months later as he was invited to join the very popular Zenith Six, which was an offer he could not turn down!

JAZZ FESTIVALS: This year we look forward to featuring at Keswick in May and Kirkcudbright in June. We always look forward to seeing our friends in other parts of the country and these very well-attended events.

PAVILION ARTS CENTRE, BUXTON: We played at this very nice venue again in January and were pleased to be told afterwards that we had the largest audience for one of their Sunday lunchtime winter concerts there! We look forward to being invited to play there again next year.

JAZZ RECORD REQUESTS: Janet wrote to Alyn Shipton to request a tune for Mart's 80th birthday. She asked him to play "Love Me Or Leave Me" sung by Marion Montgomery with the band which is on our CD "Makin' Whoopee". His assistant let us know it would be played on 5th March, and it was the last number of that programme, following one by our friend, John Hallam! Alyn told the listeners how, when we said "Goodbye" to Marion in Majorca after the Caribbean cruise we had been working on, we didn't realize that it was "Goodbye" for ever as she sadly passed away a few weeks later.

MART RODGER MANAGEMENT

18 Fletcher Drive, Disley, Stockport, Cheshire. SK12 2ND

Phone, Answerphone: 01663-763532

E-mail: jazzmart@manchesterjazz.co.uk Website: www.manchesterjazz.co.uk

MANCHESTER FILM FESTIVAL: We had a nice surprise when we were invited to play at the Manchester Film Festival on 5th March. We were told that there would be a world premiere of the film, "There's A Future In The Past" which is a documentary about Brooklyn Jazz Musician, Vince Giordano. We played in the area outside the restaurants and bars during the afternoon, and Vince joined in the whole time. The band enjoyed his playing, and he was obviously very impressed with all our musicians. Our former bass-player, Colin Smith, played bass on the day as Allan Wilcox was unable to be there with us. Vince had asked if we could arrange for someone to provide a tuba for him to play as this would save carrying his own on the plane, and Colin was willing to lend his tuba. It all took place at "The Printworks" in the centre of Manchester which was the old "Kemsley House" building, hence the new name. Some of the band stayed to watch the film a few hours later, but as it was such a very cold day other band members went home to get warm! In fact, it was so cold that no band uniforms were to be seen - the uniform instructions were "Wear very warm clothing!" Only Louis and Roger played without an overcoat and scarf! Mart has since had an e-mail from Vince to say how much he enjoyed playing with the band.

BARMOUTH MUSIC SOCIETY: We enjoyed our trip to Barmouth last year and were delighted to be asked to return in January. We had a very enjoyable evening there again. Where the rest of the band live in the Stockport area, it was a treat for Allan Wilcox to play so near to home, as his house is in sight of Snowdon!

TIMPERLEY SPORTS CLUB: Please note that sometimes there are 5 Thursdays in the month. This year it will happen in June, September and December. So the 4th Thursdays on those months are 23rd June, 22nd September and 22nd December. Please note the earlier start nowadays of 1.30 p.m. which helps us all to avoid the rush-hour traffic when we leave.

WALTON HALL, WARRINGTON: We played for the Walton Hall Music Society two years ago and were happy to be asked to play there again in January. All went very well until just before the interval when the electricity went off. Emergency candles were put around and as the PA gear was off as well, the band played acoustic for the rest of the evening. In fact, Roger thoroughly enjoyed playing the grand piano which was in the room! The difficult part came when it was time to pack up in the dark. It was very difficult for the band to collect all the PA gear, microphones, cables etc. with only a torch or two to help. As we left the building, the electricity was restored! As it happened, Eric went back to Walton Hall the next morning for a family funeral. The electricity was working;

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 p.m. 2nd May, 6th June, 4th July, 1st August, 5th Sept. etc.

3rd Monday of every month:

Poynton Royal British Legion, George's Road, Poynton. SK12 1JY 7.30 p.m. 16th May, 20th June, 18th July, 25th August, 19th Sept. etc.

4th Thursday of every month: Timperley Sports Club, Stockport

Road, Timperley. WA15 7LU 1.30p.m. 26th May, 23rd June, 28th July, 25th August, 22nd Sept. etc.

- 12th May Burton Jazz Club 8..30 p.m.
- 15th May Keswick Jazz Festival 12.00
- 28th May Foxlowe Arts Centre., Leek. 8.00 p.m.
- 10th and 11th June Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival.
- 25th June Heald Green Village Hall for afternoon Festival
- 26th June Wilbraham Arms, Alsager 8.00 p.m.
- 6th July Eaton Hall for Neuromuscular Charity
- 2nd July Fulwood Old Chapel 7.30 p.m.
- 28th July Queens Hotel, Sheffield 8.00 p.m. This venue has been moved from the Psatter Hotel where we played last time.
- 16th Sept. Bickerton Village Hall 7.30 p.m.
- 17th and 18th Sept. Lyme Hall, Disley 1.00 p.m. both days
- 24th Sept. Endon Village Hall
- 28th Oct. Medway Centre, Bakewell. 7.30 p.m.
- 13th Nov. Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00 p.m

CD SELECTION: We had completely run out of copies of Tasty Jazz and had run low on "Makin' Whoopee" following some orders received after the Jazz Record Requests programme on Radio 3. New supplies of both have now arrived so we have a full selection of recordings once again. When Mart and Janet had a holiday in Palm Springs some years ago, they took some copies of our CDs with them which were left at the local radio station, KWXY, and had been told that these were being played. They were in shops in Palm Springs one afternoon when the local radio played "Shake It And Break It" by the band! Dining at a restaurant on another evening they handed a copy of "Makin' Whoopee" to the owner, who promptly put it on the CD player. He played the whole record and started it again as one of the customers asked to hear it again. When the customer was told that the band leader was actually dining there, he came over and said to Mart, "thank you for the lovely music!" On our CD "Tasty Jazz" there is a number called "What Do You Mean You Lost Your Dog?" Mart learned this one from clarinet-player Rosie McHargue at his 95th birthday party in Fullerton Ca. when all the audience joined in with the whistling and barking! Rosie was the clarinet-player on Pee Wee Hunt's top seller, "Twelfth Street Rag" which was the first jazz record Mart ever heard and was the reason Mart wanted to learn and play jazz clarinet in the first place !