

**MART RODGER  
MANCHESTER  
JAZZ**

**NEWSLETTER**

**NO. 79**

**SEPT. 2016**

**ST. PERIS'S CHURCH, NANT PERIS:** Our bass-player, Allan Wilcox, arranged for the band to give a concert at his local Church, which is near to Llanberis. This was in aid of a charity which does very good work in Africa. It was interesting to see this very old Church which locals believe dates from the 12<sup>th</sup> century but has been added in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century and in common with other Welsh churches was restored considerably in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. While we were at the concert we were very pleased to meet up with Brenda Canty-Forest, who we knew many years ago when she was Brenda Tomkins. Brenda was a classically-trained pianist who also had a keen interest in traditional jazz. She was the pianist with Pete Haslam's Collegians and also played with the Crescent City Jazz Band.

**NORTHWICH R.N.L.I.** The band will be playing a concert for the Lifeboats on Saturday, 1<sup>st</sup> October, at Winnington Park Recreation Club, Northwich, CW8 4EB. For tickets please call John on 07719 389096, price £8.00. We have already had e-mails from friends telling us they will see us there and we look forward to seeing them.

**"THE MURDER ROAD" BY STEPHEN BOOTH:** One evening recently a good friend phoned Mart and told him that he was reading a book by his favourite author and that Mart's band was mentioned in the book. Our friend was reading "The Murder Road" by Stephen Booth, which is a crime story told around the New Mills area. He came to Page No. 73 and was amazed to see that the author referred to a concert by Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz in the Torr Vale Mill situated in the Torrs gorge in New Mills. This concert took place there in 2013 and the book reports that the band was "pretty good too"! It was pretty good that Stephen Booth spelt Mart's name correctly, which is quite a rare event as many people manage to miss out the "d" and add an unnecessary "s". As it happens, the author was to give a talk at New Mills Arts Centre a few weeks later so tickets were purchased and Mart, Janet, our friend, Bill, and his wife, Val were in the audience for a most interesting talk by Stephen Booth. We were able to chat with him and when he was asked if he had actually been to the concert, he said that he wasn't there, but probably someone had told him about it or else he may have seen the posters. He doesn't live in the area but said that when he writes about a district he spends time there researching and always has Ordnance Survey maps to hand. He does love walking in the Peak District and has visited regularly apparently. We were amazed at the references to Bugsworth Basin, Buxworth, the Bridgemont roundabout as the A6 goes up to Chapel-en-le-Frith, and on one page the detectives have a meeting in the Tesco Whaley Bridge car park! He also mentions the "Heysbank area of Disley". Mart and Janet were even more amazed at that as they lived on Heysbank Road for 12 years! The book is available generally and is a jolly good story. The page on which the band is mentioned is Page 61 in the hardback edition and Page 73 in the paperback.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE:** It was a privilege for Mart to receive an invitation to attend a Royal Garden Party in April. You will know that the band has given over £11,000 to St. Luke's Hospice in Winsford by playing concerts at Goostrey Village Hall over a number of years. Apart from this, the band was "Flying The Flag" playing in the USA, Canada, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Holland, and playing in Norway on 36 different occasions, without any help from the Arts Council or anyone else. However, many people don't know that Mart ran a very successful business in Stockport for 40 years, manufacturing aprons and headwear for the food trade, and employing 160 people at one time. Mart and Janet were very happy to be at the Royal Garden Party and were able to be fairly close to some of the Royal Family.

**TWINKLE, TWINKLE LITTLE STAR:** While in London, Mart and Janet went to the Victoria and Albert Museum to spend some time seeing the exhibitions. On the way through from the tube station they passed a guitar-player who was busking. There were quite a lot of school trips at the V and A that day, and on the return to the tube station they noticed that the guitar-player had heard a group of youngsters and their teachers marching along. He started playing "Twinkle, twinkle little star" and there was a roar as all these kids joined in singing! As they passed him, singing very loudly, another group came along. He continued playing and all these children sang along too, as well as the next school group, bringing a smile to many faces!

**MART RODGER MANAGEMENT:**

18 FLETCHER DRIVE, DISLEY, STOCKPORT. SK12 2ND

PHONE, ANSWERPHONE: 01663-763532

E-MAIL: jazzmart@manchesterjazz.co.uk WEB: www.manchesterjazz.co.uk

**HOWARD LEADER ON RADIO LINCOLNSHIRE/HUMBERSIDE:** The band was booked to play at Cleethorpes Jazz Club at the Cleethorpes Cricket Club in August. Mart was phoned to ask if he would speak on the radio on Howard Leader's Sunday afternoon programme as he had done in June 2012. This was to be on the Sunday before the gig so that it could get some publicity. Mart talked about his times in jazz and told Howard that the last time he played in Cleethorpes was with the Zenith Six in about 1962! Howard played two of the band's recordings. The first was appropriately called "East Coast Trot" which is from Mart's solo recording "Allmart". After interviewing Mart, Howard played the second track and mentioned that "Saving All My Pennies" was requested quite frequently on his programme. Mart told him that this number was written by Colin Smith, our bass-player who retired from the band a few years ago. During the concert at Cleethorpes, which was held in a marquee at the Cricket Field, the audience shouted for this number to be played! A couple in the audience reminded us that they had been on four of the cruises with us when the band played on "Sunbird" when we flew to the Caribbean, cruised the islands for a week, then sailed across the Atlantic back to Majorca via Tenerife and Madeira. They wanted us to remind them of the dates of these trips and we e-mailed them from home to say that it was 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004.

**PAVILION ARTS CENTRE, BUXTON:** It is always a pleasure to play at this great venue and after our successful concert there last January, we were told it was the best supported Sunday afternoon jazz concert they have had. As a result of this we have been booked to play there again on Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> January and Sunday, 8<sup>th</sup> October 2017. This is a lunchtime gig starting at 1.00 p.m.

**MEDWAY CENTRE, BAKEWELL:** We were sorry to learn that our concerts at Calver Village Hall have ceased. These were run by Hope Valley Rotary. They had raised very good amounts for the charities supported and the evenings were always great fun. However, the quintet was booked later last year to play at the Medway Centre in Bakewell and this was very successful. It has been decided to run this event again and the full band will play there on the 4<sup>th</sup> November, start time 7.30 p.m.

**KIRCUDBRIGHT JAZZ FESTIVAL:** As usual, this Jazz Festival in South West Scotland attracted good support and the band enjoyed the two gigs we played there. They have a tremendous jazz parade that the band joins in on the Saturday morning which ends up playing in one or two places in the centre. There are prizes for the best umbrella which all the children are keen to win and our friends, Ralph Laahs, his family and pals always turn up for the parade, suitably dressed including son, Martin, with his banjo. One of Ralph's friends has a great "Sheik of Araby" costume!

**SHEFFIELD:** The band has been playing an annual concert at Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield, each year since 2004 and this is always a great event, very well organized by Rod and Elizabeth. However, we also played at a different gig in Sheffield a year or two ago and have been booked to be there again on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October. The venue this time is Todwick Village Hall, Kiverton Lane, Todwick, starting at 7.30 p.m.

**MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:**

**1st Monday of every month:**

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 p.m. 3rd Oct. 7th Nov. 5th Dec. 2nd Jan. etc.

**3rd Monday of every month:**

Poynton Royal British Legion, George's Road, Poynton. SK12 1JY 7.30 p.m. 19th Sept. 17th Oct. 21st Nov. 19th Dec. 2nd Jan. etc.

**4th Thursday of every month:** Timperley Sports Club, Stockport Road, Timperley. WA15 7LU 1.30p.m. 22nd Sept. 27th Oct. 24th Nov. 22nd Dec. etc.

23rd Sept. Disley Golf Club 7.30 p.m. for Disley Music Weekend, The band Quartet only will be playing.  
 24th Sept. Endon Village Hall, Stoke-on-Trent. 8.00 p.m.  
 1st Oct. Winnington Park Recreation Club, Northwich  
 15th Oct. Todwick Village Hall, Sheffield. S26 1HU 7.30  
 4th Nov. Medway Centre, Bakewell. 7.30 p.m.  
 13th Nov. Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00 p.m. Quintet 2017  
 8th Jan. Pavilion Arts Centre, Buxton. 1.00 p.m.  
 20th April Glossop Jazz Club

**LYME PARK, DISLEY:** We were booked again for the annual Autumn Craft and Food Fair at Lyme Park, Disley, which is a National Trust property. The event was held last weekend on Saturday, 17th and Sunday, 18th September. Last year it was just so hot on the Saturday that we all wore really light clothes for Sunday afternoon. What a mistake – the weather changed totally and it was freezing! However, we have just had two great days at Lyme Park as the weather stayed good for us! We well remember an American musician saying to Mart one time, "Mart, you don't have climate in England, you have weather!"

**KESWICK JAZZ FESTIVAL:** The band played a Sunday afternoon session at the Skiddaw Hotel where we have played a few times at the earlier festivals, and was invited to play for the Church Service on the Sunday evening as well. Mart contacted the Vicar of the Church and suggested a number of appropriate hymns for this service. These were agreed and after the very well-attended service Mart was told that the Church had not had received such great help from any of the band leaders playing at this service in the past. It was good to see so many of the jazz fans who turned up at the Church, as well as their regular parishioners.

**AFTERTHOUGHT:** Mart and Janet called at a bookshop in Bakewell to buy another copy of "The Murder Road". The bookseller recognized Mart from the concert in Bakewell last year and was interested to see the mention of the band in the book!