

MART RODGER MANCHESTER JAZZ

NEWSLETTER NO. 81 DECEMBER 2017

NEW MILLS TOWN HALL CONCERT IN AID OF NORTH WEST AIR AMBULANCE: Maggi and Eric are members of U3A at New Mills and Maggi has arranged for the band to play a concert at the Town Hall, with profits to go to North West Air Ambulance. We hope there will be very good ticket sales for this event on 16th December, as it is for such a worthwhile cause, which needs support. For tickets, please call Maggi on 01663 745396.

MART AND JANET'S DIAMOND WEDDING ANNIVERSARY: Mart and Janet were married on 3rd August 1957, so this year they celebrated their 60th year of marriage. Back in 1957 things were very different from nowadays so the big wedding celebrations that people have in 2017 were unheard of! In fact, after the happy couple were married at St. Mary's Methodist Church in Handforth, the wedding reception was held at Mart's Mum and Dad's house in Cheadle Hulme, for a handful of guests, the wedding breakfast being provided by Mart's Mum! No one had "evening celebrations" in those days, but as banjoist, Derek Gracie, was having a party that night at his home in West Didsbury it seemed a good way to complete a very happy day! Mart and Derek were both playing in Manchester's Zenith Six at that time. Mart didn't have a car or had even learned to drive, so friend, Alec, drove us to Derek's party in his vintage Lagonda. This summer there was a family and band party to celebrate the 60th Anniversary and on display was the congratulations card from Her Majesty, The Queen, arranged by their elder son, Simon.

GOOSTREY VILLAGE HALL: There have been a lot of enquiries from jazzfans who used to attend our concerts at Goostrey in the past, where the band has raised over £11,000 with a series of concerts over several years. We have decided to start this event again and hope for plenty of ticket sales. The concert will be held on 24th February at 7.45, tickets from Brian Lancaster, 01477 537970.

REV. ALLAN WILCOX: Our double bass-player, Allan Wilcox, has been working with his local Church, St. Peris's, in Nant Peris, just outside Llanberis, for a number of years. Allan has been studying and attending Church events in advance of becoming a Priest. He was ordained in a ceremony at Bangor Cathedral on 24th June and became a Deacon. Next year he will have another ceremony when he will become a Priest. He tells us he will still be playing with the band, and has been seen wearing his clerical collar already on many gigs.

WE'RE OFF TO NORWAY AGAIN! We were very pleased to hear from our good friend, Petter, that he wanted the band to come over to Stavanger again for the Vintage Jazz Weekend in January. This has followed on from the Stavanger Tradjazz Weekend which we played at many times over quite a number of years. We will be flying out on Thursday 18th January and returning on Sunday, 21st. We are really looking forward to seeing our Norwegian friends again and playing at the great venues. It will be the 37th time we have gone to Norway since our first trip there to celebrate the 35th anniversary of our friends, the Royal Garden Jazz Band, in 1990!

HIGH LANE CONSERVATIVE CLUB: As New Year's Day will be on the 1st January next month, we will be having our usual gig there a week later, on 8th January. This is because New Year's Day has, in the past, turned out to be a very quiet time to have any function! We will be charging £7 at the door in future from January for both our gigs at High Lane and Poynton Legion as well.

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JANET ON BBC BREAKFAST: Many of you will know that Janet was unfortunate enough to suffer three minor strokes in an hour in the early hours of a Sunday morning four years ago. The band had been playing at Goostrey Village Hall on the Saturday evening and it had been quite a late bedtime. Mart took her straight to Stepping Hill Hospital from where she was taken by ambulance to Salford Royal Hospital (the former Hope Hospital). The Doctors diagnosed stroke and she was given an injection which took an hour, and is called Thrombolysis. After the hour she started to get better and lose the stroke symptoms. After 36 hours she was allowed to go home to take it very easy for a couple of months. She was contacted later by the Stroke Association who wanted her to give an account of her experience, which was included in a booklet called, "It's Not Just A Funny Turn". This was followed up in April with a request for her to appear the next morning on BBC Breakfast to tell what happened to her as part of a Stroke Awareness programme. The BBC sent a car at 6.20 a.m. and they arrived at the studios in Media City, Salford, in good time. A coffee and a trip to Make-Up followed and she was called in to sit on the red sofa with a lady doctor to be interviewed by Charlie Stayt and Sally Nugent. She was asked to describe the events and the lady doctor gave the good advice saying FAST, F for Face, A for Arms, S for Speech and T means Time To Get Help (which is exactly what Mart and Janet did at 5.30 a.m. on that Sunday). This two-minutes-of-fame appearance was seen by lots of our friends who happened to be watching at 8.10 in the morning!

MART OFF SICK FOR SEVEN WEEKS: During the one hot week of this year, Mart was watering the garden and over-balanced as he fell to the ground. His replacement hip had managed to come out of position and he was in dreadful pain. He was admitted to Stepping Hill Hospital and the problem was resolved the next day by Surgeons who "manipulated" it under full anaesthetic, as they don't like to cut into the same area again as the original operation. However, he started with a chest infection which got worse and he had to be placed in an isolation room where no one could enter without protective apron, mask and gloves. He was in that room for about 6 days before going back to the ward for a few days more. He was not allowed to sit on a normal chair for six or more weeks and had to have a hired 19" chair from a company locally. Luckily we have some good clarinet-players who were able to stand in with the band during these weeks and we are grateful to Dave Thomas and John Hallam for helping out.

BOOKINGS: We have a new event booked at St. Asaph Cathedral in North Wales. This will be held on 14th April at 7.30. Poynton Methodist Church will have a jazz evening on 19th March, also at 7.30. You will remember that Mart held his 80th birthday jazz afternoon there last year where every seat was occupied and £962.40 was raised for two charities. Another charity event will be at Calver Village Hall on 19th May, and we are happy to be booked again for the Neuromuscular Society jazz evening at Eaton Hall, near Chester.

MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:

1st Monday of every month:

High Lane Conservative Club, SK6 8DR 8.00 p.m. 8th Jan.,
5th Feb., 5th March, 2nd April, 7th May etc.

3rd Monday of every month:

Poynton British Legion, Georges Rd. West. SK12 1JY 7.30 p.m.
15th Jan., 19th Feb., 19th March, 16th April, 21st May, etc.

7th Dec. Glossop Jazz Club 8.00 p.m.
16th Dec. New Mills Town Hall 7.30 p.m.
28th Dec. Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.
8th Jan. High Lane Conservative Club 8.00 p.m. instead of on
1st Monday of the month.
18th to 21st Jan. Stavanger, Norway.
25th Jan. Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley. 8.15 p.m.
24th Feb. Goostrey Village Hall 7.45 p.m.
10th March Poynton Methodist Church 7.30 p.m.
29th March Frankie's Wine Bar, Disley 8.15 p.m.
14th April St. Asaph Cathedral, North Wales. 7.30 p.m.
22nd April Wilbraham Arms, Alsager. 8.00 p.m.
18th May Calver Village Hall 7.30 p.m.

BAKEWELL CONCERT FOR CANCER RELIEF: Two years ago the band was asked if they would play at the Medway Centre in Bakewell for an evening in support of Cancer Relief. The next year we were invited for the same event again and a few weeks ago we had the third concert. The tickets included a supper and this year, were all sold out a month before the due date! We have heard that an excellent amount of money was raised by this very well-supported event and the band has already been booked again for November next year!

PAVILION ARTS CENTRE, BUXTON: The band has played twice during this year at this very good venue, which has been a winter event on one Sunday of the month for an hour from 1.00 o'clock. The arrangement has been going for quite a few years and we have always had good attendance from an enthusiastic audience. However, no one is quite sure if this will continue, and one of the other bands has already had a long-standing booking cancelled. We hope that the management will decide to continue once they have the new cinema arrangement operating.