

# Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz Newsletter 59 March 2009

**FAREWELL, DIDSBURY CRICKET CLUB:** We had reduced our nights at Didsbury from once a week to once a month two years ago, but were aware that audience numbers had reduced considerably. We were forced to put the price up to £6 when the Cricket Club decided to put a room charge on all the bands playing there, which amounted to £1.00 per head. We saw that quite a few of the jazzfans were turning up at our other venues and had stopped going to Didsbury. However, the band and about 20 of the audience were locked out on a bitterly cold night for 15 minutes at our Christmas event when the stewardess had already been warned we would be starting at 8.00 instead of 8.30. Mart wrote to the club and said we would play our last night on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of January, but the Executive Chairman phoned and said the committee had decided they would not allow us to have the room again. An article about this appeared in the Stockport Express, with a very nice photo of the band, telling the readers what had happened. Annoyingly, when the paper asked the Executive Chairman to put his point of view he apparently told the journalist that “they do not pay for using the room” and this was printed. A letter was then sent to the Stockport Express explaining that we have signed receipts for room charges amounting to £655.00 and we were pleased to see that this was also printed. At the end of the article it said that Mart is still searching for a new venue to replace the one at Didsbury, and within 2 days of the paper being on sale we had received three enquiries and have since had two more. Mart will be looking into these, but we have to be careful not to go to clubrooms that are too near to our present residences.

**CANCELLATIONS:** We started the matinee gig at Altrincham Conservative Club a few months ago and had high hopes for it. However, there have been some unforeseen problems at the venue, and we received complaints from the jazz fans regarding the club members not needing to pay to listen to the band. As a result of this, audience numbers have dropped, and we have decided to finish playing at this venue.

Another cancellation to our band list is the event at Nidd Hall in October. Denise and Tony Lawrence have been informed by the hotel that the Jazz Weekend is being phased out in favour of a “Sinatra” type band playing for the hotel guests. All who booked have been notified of this change by the hotel management, who hope the new arrangement will be acceptable to the guests who had booked, hoping to hear Denise & Tony Lawrence, Savannah Jazz Band, Yorkshire Stompers and Mart Rodger Manchester Jazz!

**SOLO PERFORMANCE FOR ROGER:** A very kind lady donated a beautiful grand piano to Poynton Methodist Church last year. When the band played their concert there on the weekend of the Harvest Festival, Roger was delighted to be able to play this piano. It's not very often he gets the opportunity to play such a fine instrument. He was asked if he would consider playing a solo performance one evening and this has now been arranged to take place on Saturday, 13<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30. Roger plans to cover the whole spectrum of classic jazz piano styles and repertoire from the earliest styles to contemporary. He might well invite Mart to join him on one or two numbers.

**ALLMART:** In the last newsletter we said it would be good if “Allmart” could get on some playlists for the BBC, and we soon heard from Tom Saville, who broadcasts at 7.00 p.m. on Thursdays on BBC Radio Derby. He told us that the band's recordings feature well on his show. Also, Chris Gumbley has played some tracks from “Allmart” on his BBC Radio Stoke programme which goes out at 8.00 p.m. each Wednesday.

**NEW VENUE AT CHEADLE HULME:** Because of his hip operation, Mart was unable to follow up the enquiries re the new venue for a few weeks, but he has now been able to arrange another monthly session to be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at Cheadle Hulme Conservative Club, Mellor Road, which is the road opposite to Cheadle Hulme railway station. The sessions will begin on Tuesday, 14<sup>th</sup> April at 8.00 p.m. and we are delighted to be offered such a lovely room to play in.

**MART'S 4<sup>TH</sup> OPERATION:** Mart thought he had finished with hip and knee replacements, but before the band went to Canada in September to play at the Vancouver DixieFest he was having severe pain in his left leg. This was first diagnosed as a trapped sciatic nerve but, much later, when he was x-rayed it was found that the left hip was in very poor condition and he had the operation to replace this on 20<sup>th</sup> January. He is grateful to Dave Thomas for standing in for him on the gigs for a few weeks.

**TARPORLEY BRITISH LEGION:** We have played occasionally at Tarporley Community Hall, and when that finished we were asked to play a short distance away at the Tarporley British Legion. We have been booked for another gig at the Legion and this will be on 4<sup>th</sup> April. We hope that the people who turned up at the Community Hall will come along to this gig. Swaffields have tickets

**E-MAIL:** If you receive the Newsletter by post but have an e-mail address, please let us know so we can save on postage!

**TRANSATLANTIC CRUISE IN APRIL:** We look forward to the 19-day cruise booked with Thomson sailing from the Dominican Republic to Majorca. It will be very similar to the four MyTravel repositioning cruises the band played on a few years ago. As the ship, “Destiny”, is actually the same one which was then called “Sunbird” we will certainly know our way around it! Owing to the length of the cruise, we will not now be at High Lane Conservative Club on the usual 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of May. We will be there, however, on Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> May, instead.

**AMAZING GRACE:** At the Jazz Weekend at the Savoy Hotel, Blackpool, organised by Denise and Tony Lawrence, we were delighted to meet Sandra and Keith Oliver who we had not seen for a few years. It was Sandra and Keith who had asked Mart some years ago to get hold of a copy of “Amazing Grace” for Sandra's mother's funeral, and Mart made a quick recording at home to reach them in time. When tunes were selected for “Allmart”, this was one of the first to be chosen as we knew it would mean a lot to them.

**MARTROGER III:** This is the name of a lovely yacht seen west of Nantes in France during the summer by a couple who come to the band's performances at Altrincham Conservative Club! (What a pity it wasn't spelt with a "D" as we spell Rodger!) Our friends saw the boat and took several photos of it to send to Mart. They have a friend living in France who offered to download the pictures onto his computer. However, the computer then emptied the camera, and unfortunately the friend accidentally deleted them from the computer. The couple then decided that they should make a really big detour the next day to photograph the yacht again, which they did. They went about 30 miles out of their way then kindly sent the picture by e-mail. You can imagine Mart's surprise when he saw the photograph of this yacht on his computer! It was just so unusual and made a great picture and a great story!

**STAVANGER JAZZ WEEKEND:** The band had been booked some time ago to play at this super event on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> January, and Mart was very disappointed to have to miss it. Unfortunately, Nigel and Allan were also unable to go so Roger, Colin, Charlie and Eric turned up to play with Dave Thomas, clarinet, Jon Critchley, trumpet and Chris Pendlebury, drums. Roger tells us that the band played very well and the audience enjoyed it just as much as usual! When we go on the Thomson "Destiny" cruise on 19<sup>th</sup> April, Jon and Chris will be with us, as they were at Vancouver in September and we look forward to having as much fun as we did on the four Transatlantic cruises we did for MyTravel on "Sunbird" – which is the same ship, now called "Destiny".

**SPANISH FRED:** John Basnett, also known in the jazz clubs as "Spanish Fred" was a great character. He would appear in some amazing smart outfits and would always shout: "Give Us A Stomper, Kid". The band's second LP took this phrase as its title. Recently a relation of John's telephoned Mart as he was researching John's life and told Mart he had bought a copy of the LP through the internet – it cost him £8.00! He was pleased when Janet looked up her memorabilia to find the press cuttings of John's funeral in December 1984 and Mart was able to send copies to him. Soon after he turned up at the gig at the Wilbraham Arms to thank us.

**MONICA:** It is many years since we first met jazzfans, Monica and George Wright. They lived in Plymouth so we only saw them when the band was playing at the Upton Festival or further south. They were on our mailing list very early on and have received the newsletters for many years. More recently they moved to the Preston area to be nearer to their daughter and we were sad to learn that George died. To our great surprise, when the band played at the Richmond, Southport, recently we arrived to find Monica and her daughter in the audience. She told us that for George's funeral she had to choose a piece of music and decided that Mart's version of "Amazing Grace" on "Allmart" would be the one. She said that everyone commented on how good it was. We told her that Mart had just played "September Song" for another friend's funeral that very afternoon.

**ST. LUKE'S HOSPICE:** At the regular gig at Goostrey Village Hall recently, Mart asked the representatives of the friends of St. Luke's Hospice how much the band had contributed to their funds through the concerts. We were delighted to find that the total amount has now reached £5125.00. We should like to thank St. Luke's supporter, Brian Lancaster for selling the tickets for us. Also, he and Denis Eborall and their wives, turn up each time to set out the room with the tables and chairs, which is most appreciated, and we would also thank the audience who help at the end of the evening to put all the furniture away again. When we started the gigs at Goostrey, Pat Carson was selling the tickets and arranging the room herself and we are very grateful to her for all she did. Pat is now Pat Jones – congratulations, Pat and Richard!

#### **MORE PLACES TO SEE THE BAND:**

1<sup>st</sup> Monday of each month High Lane Conservative Club, Buxton Road, High Lane. 8.00 p.m. (Fri. 8th May instead of 4th)  
 NEW! 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month starting on April 14<sup>th</sup> Cheadle Hulme Conservative Club, Mellor Rd, 8.00 p.m.  
 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month Poynton Royal British Legion, George's Road West, Poynton. 8.00 p.m.

6th March	Bickerton Village Hall	7th Sept.	Savoy Hotel Blackpool - for Warners
7th March	Warners Jazz Weekend at Bodelwyddan Castle	13th Sept.	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
8th March	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager	19th Sept.	Marple Food & Drink Day
16th March	Rotherham Jazz Club	28th Sept.	Rotherham Jazz Club
27th March	Goostrey Village Hall, tkts reqd.	17th Oct.	Calver Village Hall—tkts. Reqd.
2nd April	Burton Jazz Club	31st Oct.	Goostrey Village Hall—tkts reqd.
4th April	Tarporley British Legion	8th Nov.	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
19th April/6th May	— On board Thomson "Destiny"	11th Dec.	Tatton Park Christmas Concert
10th May	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager	13th Dec.	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager
30th May	Windle Fete—afternoon		
11/12th June	Kircudbright Jazz Festival		
27th June	Upton Jazz Festival		
4th July	Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield tkts reqd.		
5th July	Wilbraham Arms, Alsager.		

Some bookings have already been arranged for 2010!

#### **MART RODGER MANAGEMENT:**

**P.O. BOX 4, DISLEY, STOCKPORT, CHESHIRE. SK12 2NH PHONE, FAX, ANSWERPHONE: 01663-763532**  
**E-MAIL: [jazzmart@manchesterjazz.co.uk](mailto:jazzmart@manchesterjazz.co.uk) WEBSITE: [www.manchesterjazz.co.uk](http://www.manchesterjazz.co.uk)**