

North Staffs Accordion Club Newsletter

November/December 2020

No 491



Hi EVERYONE. I HOPE EVERYTHING IS WELL.

Wow! WE SEEM TO HAVE A VACCINE ON THE HORIZON (GREAT CHRISTMAS PRESENT) AND I WONDER IF WE'LL ALL BE MEETING UP IN PERSON SOON - WHAT A WONDERFUL THING THAT WOULD BE!

MEANWHILE THE FESTIVITIES WILL BE SOON UPON US AND I WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

HERE'S A LITTLE TEASER FOR YOU. CAN YOU NAME ALL OF SANTA'S REINDEER? (ANSWER AT THE END) LILY



Christmas Party on ZOOM

Can we have a virtual Christmas party? On Tuesday 15th December we're going to try our level best to do so hopefully with a variety of Christmas attire and backgrounds. Instead of our annual band carol performance each player is to play a selected carol whilst the rest of us, in muted fashion, join in by playing, singing, or both. A 'special spot' is an option where you can play a different instrument (brownie points if it is home-made), a monologue, some magic or some other imaginative act. Let's keep our chins up and not let the virus defeat us.



OCTOBER CLUB NIGHT



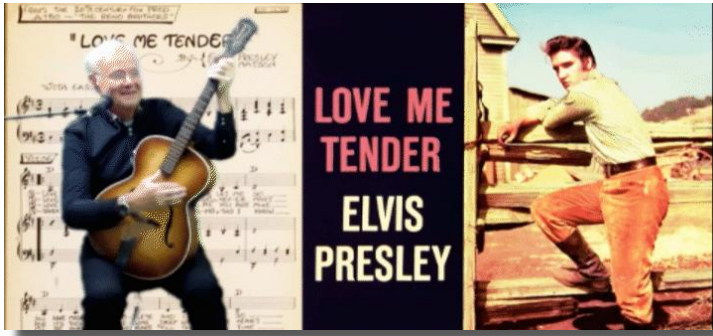
There was a '1950s music' theme for the night and we looked forward to hearing our guest, **Richard Adey** (pictured below) from Birmingham.

Although not compensating for a performance in person, one of the few benefits of the Zoom club nights is that the guest does not have to travel. Richard gave his performance from his soundproofed music room at home, a ten-minute spot at the end of each half. His playing was amazing

showing such dexterity and sensitivity and responding to requests with no hesitation. Although it sounded great on the night for an audience accustomed to the Zoom related audio issues, we have unfortunately not been able to put any of his performance out on the YouTube channel, Accordion TV North Staffs, because of the poor audio quality. This is the main drawback of Zoom get-togethers.



All of our regular players now have a copy of one of the 250 All Time Hits music books for our playalong and we started each half of the evening by playing a short selection of pieces from this book. Only one player can be unmuted and this honour falls every month to Paul Hobbs who does an excellent job of the playing.



The playalong is followed by club member solos or 'bubble duets' with our policy of allowing any member who wishes to play a '6-minutish' spot. The following pieces were played on the night and we were delighted that so many of them

were theme related:

Viv and Pete - *Hey Good Lookin', Diana, Singing the Blues*
 Greta Moseley (right) - medley - *Bye Bye Love, Rock Around the Clock, Hound Dog, Blue Suede Shoes, Let's Twist Again*
 John Jones – medley - *Who's Sorry Now, Dream, Oh Boy, What do you Want to Make those Eyes at Me For, Living Doll, Secret Love*
 Mike Richards - *Thank Heaven for Little Girls, Dream*
 Paul Hobbs - *Petite Fleur, Misty*
 Moira Hague (below right) - *Hawaiian Wedding Song, True Love*
 Barry Graham - *Grand March Aida, Spanish Gypsy Dance*
 Steve Houghton - *Yellow Bird, Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White*
 Betty Nixon - *Your Cheating Heart, Tears*
 Tony Britton - *Love is a Many Splendored Thing, Love Me Tender* (top picture)
 Steve Hughes - *Chattanooga Shoeshine Boy, Take Five*
 Geoff Capewell - *Answer Me, Are You Lonesome Tonight*
 Miriam Umplesby - *And I Do*, medley – *'Showtime in the 50's'* (8 songs)



Richard Adey - *Summertime, Indifference, Blackbird* (amazing), *St. Thomas, Nuages, Lemon Cornet, It Don't Mean a Thing, Blue Bossa*

Thanks to Richard and all those taking part for a lovely evening.

NOVEMBER CLUB NIGHT

Carrying on with our lockdown practice of having a twenty-minute (two tens) guest every month, this month we were delighted to welcome not one, but two guests all the way from Cambridge. Bert Santilly and his wife, Helen, did not have to travel far though, performing in their living room with Zoom and the internet doing the rest.



Following our playalong introduced and led by Paul Hobbs (left), Miriam Umplesby started the individual playing with *Humoresque* and *Whispering Hope*, beautifully singing the latter as she played. Following this we had Barry Graham (right), now welcomed as a new member, who played *Barcarolle* and *Autumn Leaves*. Mike Richards then played *Sorrento Thoughts* and *Leaving of Liverpool*, singing the latter with backing track and accordion accompaniment.



Moira Hague, on her Northumbrian pipes, played *South Wind, Julie* and *Middies Brae*, and, taking us up to the first guest spot, Steve Hughes followed with *El Cumbanchero* and *Cumana*.

Bert (*below*) then 'took the stage' with a performance in his superb jazz style full of wonderful chords. His first number was ***Summer Knows***. Helen (*below right*) joined him in song for the next piece, ***Making Whoopee***. She has a lovely voice and the members were blown over with her singing. Bert then played ***La Partida*** before again accompanying Helen with ***Mean to Me***.



After a 'make yourself a cup of tea' break we again had a ten-minute Paul Hobbs playalong (music this month selected by Viv and Peter Cowie) and then we had:

Betty Nixon – ***La Paloma*** and ***The Laughing Samba***

John Jones – a Seekers medley containing ***I'll Never Find Another You***, ***A World of Our Own***, ***Morning Town Ride***, ***Georgie Girl*** and

The Carnival is Over

Steve Houghton – 70s Sunday medley - ***Beautiful Sunday*** and ***Amarillo***, followed by an accordion arrangement from the brass band march, ***Second to None*** containing some intricate bass work.

Ann Millward – ***Scottish Waltz Medley***

Paul Hobbs – ***Can't Take My Eyes off You*** and ***Come Back to Sorrento*** and the last of the club players, Tony Britton, with ***Nightingale Serenade*** and ***Somewhere Over the Rainbow***

Bert and Helen then brought the evening to a close with duet ***Everytime We Say Goodbye***, a Bert solo of ***Autumn Leaves***, duet ***Am I Blue***, a superb rendition by Bert of ***Take Five*** and encores ***Dream a Little Dream*** and ***My Funny Valentine***. Thus ended another brilliant club night, thanks to all the members who took part and our guests Bert and Helen Santilly.



WONDERFUL REUNION AFTER 11 YEARS

by John Jones MBE

I have been fundraising and supporting local charities for 30 years by playing the accordion in Macclesfield Hospital. I raise funds for the hospital charity, the East Cheshire Hospice, and other local charities. I consider it a privilege to be able to do this, have made many friends and had many wonderful moments over the years.

One such moment occurred in 2009 when Caroline was leaving hospital with her newborn baby. I asked her what was her baby's name, which was 'Marianne' and I played the calypso ***All Day, All night, Marianne***. She was absolutely thrilled by this and said that she would always remember it.

Since March this year due to the Covid epidemic, I have not been able to play in the hospital, and have been playing in other areas when I get the chance.

On 1st September, whilst busking in Buxton, I had a chance meeting with Caroline and her family who now live in London and were on a holiday visit. She was thrilled to meet me again and introduced me to Marianne, now aged 11. I again played 'Marianne Calypso', embarrassing her slightly, which her mum videoed.



I attach an email from Caroline, incorporating a photo from 2009 when she was leaving hospital with baby Marianne, and a picture clip from the video. She is happy for me to share this with you. We have now formed a lasting friendship through the medium of social media.

Dear John,

Please find attached the photo (2009) and the video and picture (left) (2020).

It was so lovely to bump into you yesterday after so long!

I didn't like to say in front of my daughter, but bringing her home from hospital was a somewhat difficult moment for me, as I had had a traumatic marriage breakdown during my pregnancy, and I felt very upset that I was leaving the hospital on my own. But when you serenaded Marianne (with her own song!) it really cheered me up. So it was always a lovely memory for me.

And you serenaded her again yesterday! On a sunny day in beautiful Buxton, on the last day of our holiday. Wonderful.

I shared the photo and the video on my Facebook page and briefly explained the coincidence, and so many friends found it a lovely story.

I do hope we'll meet again. If you are ever in London, please come and see us

Very best wishes; Caroline, Marianne, Bertie and Alex xxxx

MIKE'S FLORENCE COLLIERY VIDEO

Mike Richards has produced a lovely video for his rendition of **Working Man** in memory of his grandfather who worked as a miner in the Florence Colliery. The video contains subtitled photographs of the colliery and can be viewed on

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KwdsCQxZ-0U>

BREXIT — LETTER FROM THE GOVERNMENT

Our Secretary, Steve, has received a letter from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy with four requests relating to the 1st January, 2021....

Check the new rules on importing and exporting goods between the EU and Great Britain. Different rules apply to Northern Ireland.

If you are planning to recruit from overseas you will need to register as a licensed visa sponsor.

Use GOV.UK to identify changes affecting manufactured goods e.g. new markings.

If you are moving goods into, out of, or through Northern Ireland, check the latest guidance.

As a registered charity we would obviously hate to break the law so can all members please ensure that you fully comply with this request (lol).



Santa in the SPOT LIGHT



I published this piece from our 'In the Spotlight' series back in Christmas 2011 and I thought, especially with so many new members, you might enjoy it again.

Hello Santa. We at the North Staffs Accordion Club would love to know how you became involved with the accordion.

*Ho! Ho! Ho! Hello everyone. Well - I get involved with almost everything! I found this accordion one Christmas Eve in a fireplace as I was doing my rounds and rescued it just in time. It seemed that someone probably thought flames would be the best thing to play on the accordion. Ho! Ho! Ho! I soon knocked a tune out of the piano side but I was a bit daunted by the number of buttons on the other side - but soon sorted it out. I realized that you should never use more than three buttons. Many accordionists **appear** to be using lots of buttons but they are actually just desperately trying to find the darn 'C'.*

In December's newsletter 2004, Santa, Mrs. Claus (right) told us how you brought home a small accordion, an unwanted Christmas present, and how she was soon getting a tune out of it. She told us how she loved to put her arms around such a lovely vibrant instrument on lonely winters' nights when you were busy making toys, and said that she could see why accordionists are so enthusiastic.



*She was indeed a very enthusiastic player, true, and still is and, to be honest, it was very unsettling for the reindeer. However, I came up with a great solution. I got her one of those electric accordions and her own set of headphones and we all love to **watch** her practising now.*

Finally Santa, and this is a little delicate, and on a completely different subject, but I have read that most male reindeer shed their antlers in early winter and females in the spring, leading me to the obvious conclusion that your reindeer, including Rudolph, must be female!

*(Clever clogs eh?) I read your question to Rudolph, who promptly pointed out that the important word is 'most'. Rudolph stated, and I quote, "How could any female, leading a team pulling an overladen vehicle, circumnavigate the world in one night and not get lost?" (I did not show the question to the rest of the reindeer, especially **Prancer**, as I did not want to incite mutiny amongst the workforce).*

Merry Christmas to all your members - and remember I'm making a list, **and** checking it twice, and I really do know who's naughty or nice !!!.

Santa

Answer to reindeer question :

Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner
(or Donner), Blitzen and of course Rudolph.



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Helen Brown, Sue Edge, Alan Fernandez, Ken Hall, Paul Hobbs, Barry Tunnicliffe.

Newsletter Editor	Lily Lynch
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