

North Staffs Accordion Club Newsletter

July/August 2022

No 501



HI EVERYONE. I HOPE YOU ARE KEEPING WELL. WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME A NEW MEMBER TO OUR CLUB – MRS JACQUI FLATHER FROM STONE – WHO HAS JOINED THE BEGINNERS GROUP.

LILY

JUNE CLUB NIGHT

Fearful of a low turnout in blistering sunshine and with members on holiday, we were pleasantly surprised with a turnout equalling our best post-pandemic, for our live June club night.

Mike Richards played background music for ten minutes whilst the rest of us got the room ready prior to the start, and following a brief introduction by compere Steve Hughes the player-members took the floor for a playalong of pre-selected music.

With a theme for the night of playing a piece ‘**containing a person’s name**’, the following was the order of play:



Steve Hughes started, playing *Emily* and *Maria Elena* on his button accordion.

Derek Wilton, playing his harmonica, followed with *Rosemarie*, *Jambalaya* and *Molly Malone*.

John Plumb (left) played *Goodnight Irene* and *Ramona* having brought song sheets for the audience with chorister, John Corden, leading the singing.

Betty Nixon followed with *Jeanie with the Light Brown Hair* and *Bill Bailey*.

Norman Brown, who plays by ear, contributed *I'll Take You Home Again Kathleen*, *Jimmy Brown* and *Anna Marie*.



During the break which followed, the raffle and the members' attendance award were drawn. The latter was won by Geoff Berks who pocketed £20. We also had some background music played by Paul Hobbs.

Music continued with duet **John Corden** and **Rosie Galley** (above right) playing Scottish medley *Ronan's Voe*.

President and MD, **Steve Houghton**, followed with vintage marches, *La Marche des Accordeonistes Lyonnaise* and *Second to None*, music he had played in his NAO competing days of youth. He was then joined by his wife, Cathryn, giving us a lovely duet of *Snow Bird*, arranged by Steve (right).



Mike Richards then played *Duke of Perth*, *Georgia* and *Sloop John B*, the latter with vocals and all with backing tracks that he had created himself using Band in a Box.

Paul Hobbs followed with his own arrangements, as usual, this time of *May Each Day, Something Stupid, Peg o' My Heart*.

Barry Graham then certainly brought dynamics into play with his rendition of *My Little Dark Rose, Suzette* and *The Grand March* (Verdi's *Aida*).

To finish the evening off we once more had a novelty spot by **Miriam Umpleby** who taught us the 'moves' to *Run Rabbit Run*. After a few practise 'runs' (apparently a few more than children need!) we had it off-pat and a video of the results has been put on our Accordion TV North Staffs YouTube channel.

It was 'one of the best club nights we've had for a long time' and we look forward to an equally good one in July.

Steve Hughes

JULY CLUB NIGHT

Our July club night was to be a different night. Chairman and MC Steve Hughes had jetted off to Sardinia for his son's wedding and we weren't jealous – much – except for the prospect of delivering a wedding speech in Italian! Peter Cowie ably stepped in to the compering role.

John Plumb welcomed us with a variety of well-played background music during setting up. Thank you, John.

This day was Tuesday 21 July 2022, the hottest day since records began so our numbers were limited. Several members preferred to swelter in the comfort of their homes but the 15 members who came along did their best to make the night a success in tropical conditions – joining in the group playalong and singing, and they were successful!



We enjoyed a wide range of pieces from Amanda's Nordic folk music (*above*) to Barry's super powerful classical music. Barry (*left*) and his accordion generated such immense volume that the club steward received a complaint from a local resident, and we were asked, very nicely, to close the doors. No doubt the intense heat raised the bile of the locals, but we sweated on with a determination to enjoy ourselves and make the best of unchangeable circumstances. Our medic Barry's solution to the climatic conditions was to spray himself with cold water from a spray unit. It worked! His energy was not in the least dampened and a soggy Barry stormed through his pieces in grand style, leading the playalong and giving us background music in the break in addition to his spot.



The following was played:



John Plumb *Fly Me to the Moon, Fools Rush In, Strangers in the Night*

Derek Wilton (*left on harmonica*) *There's an awful lot of Coffee in Brazil, Begin the Beguine, Brazil*

Geoff Capewell *Mountains of Mourne, Blaze Away, Oslo Waltz*

Barry Graham *Der Weg Zum Herzen, Spanish Eyes, La Paloma, Tango delle Rose*

Tony Britton *Sealed with a Kiss, Sound of Silence*

Viv and Pete Cowie An Irish Medley with vocals

Amanda Hilmarsson-Dunn *Finnish Waltz, Goddess of Spring, Eastern Gust*

Mike Richards *Aint Misbehavin', Lady be Good, Red Rose Café, Dirty Old Town* (the latter two with vocals)

Barry Graham *Poet and Peasant Overture*

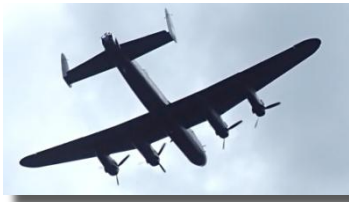
Thank you to all the players who all entertained us and everyone for coming and for joining in the singing. Thank you to those who helped with club night jobs especially Barbara and Yvonne who took care of all monies and raffle prizes.

The show went on in spite of 40 something degrees! How cool is that?

LANCASTER BOMBER FLY-PAST

by Steve Hughes

On Saturday 2nd of September, the band performed at a fete in the grounds of Tittensor C.E. School (not far from Stone in Staffordshire). Following a rainy and overcast morning the weather treated us kindly



with what became a beautiful afternoon and we were able to uncross fingers. The good weather was fortunate in that the gazebo they had set out for us was far too small to hold us all, with the requested number of chairs but no allowance for the extra space accordion bellows need! By

removing one of its sides some of us were able to spread out of the confines of the gazebo and started crossing our fingers again!

The fete was well organised and well attended both by the public and the number of stalls eagerly, awaiting the star attraction. No, not our band but the fly-past of a Lancaster Bomber scheduled later in the afternoon. It was a noisy event with loud amplified music and the siren of



a police car blazing as it was demonstrated to children by a friendly police officer. Girl troops demonstrated their choreographic skills as did the members of a local air cadet squadron. During the performances the amplified announcer gave a running tally of the location of the Lancaster Bomber and the service history of the pilot (very, very experienced apparently), and gradually the aircraft came closer at a speed of 176 mph.



We were given the cue to start playing, attracting quite a good crowd, and went through our programme, with the announcer, between songs, giving us the location of the

Bomber. When it was over Cheadle, MD Steve Houghton kept an eye out (Eastwardly) for it. We switched our music to Dambusters right on cue with some of the last bars drowned by the engine noise. To the delight of all present (with the exception of a few crying babies) the Lancaster 'buzzed' the fete three times. We carried on playing for a while, having lost the 'crowd' and having to wait for the conclusion of the endless raffles. It was, however, a pleasant and rewarding, fun afternoon which ended with a welcome complimentary glass of Pimms.

Marianne Reutter 1943 – 2022

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of member Marianne Reutter after a long illness. This is what she said in an article for our newsletter of Jan/Feb newsletter 2017

'My childhood dream was to learn to play the accordion. Due to a problem in my back I wasn't allowed to learn to play this until I was 19 years old. My friend in Switzerland taught me to play the 'Schneewalzer' (Snow Waltz) on my continental button accordion. From then on I went for lessons at a music school. Originating from Switzerland I had an inborn love for the accordion. My father used to play the accordion in a dance band without being able to read music. My uncle on my mother's side – who I never knew – also played the accordion. Unfortunately I could not remember any melodies and needed to use a score sheet all the time.



When I came to England I used to entertain our friends and W.I. members. Unfortunately, I was very nervous especially when playing for a group meeting of W.I.'s in Macclesfield of approx. 200 members. However the reward was great when I got a roaring applause.

Approx. 10 years ago I tripped over a large box and hurt my shoulder badly and playing my accordion went out of the window. My only consolation is that there is the North Staffs Accordion Club and their beautiful concerts which my husband and I enjoy very much indeed. I hope that these concerts will continue for a long time. So please keep playing and enjoy this wonderful gift of yours. Like in my case, you never know what tomorrow brings. However, my best wishes go out to you.

In expectation yours, Marianne Reutter.'

Marianne spoke fluent German, French and English and met her German born husband, Werner, after they both came to England to work in Macclesfield. They were members of the Manchester Swiss Society where she became secretary, chairman and ultimately president and both were generous members of our club. They had a farm in Eaton, Congleton, and were active in the local community and church, Christ Church, Eaton.

The funeral took place in Christ Church on Tuesday 5th July and it is testimony to her popularity that the church was full with several attending having to stand for the service. Member John Jones MBE knew Marianne and Werner for years from having played for the Swiss Society and we had a request from Marianne's daughter, Susi, for him to play the accordion following the service. This he was glad to do, playing mainly Swiss music in the beautiful country setting and in sunshine outside the church.

RIP Marianne. We will miss you.

MIDLAND ACCORDION FESTIVAL

11th – 13th November 2022



The Midland Accordion Festival is to be held from Friday 11th to Sunday 13th November, 2022, at the Mercure Birmingham West Hotel on Birmingham Road, West Bromwich.

The Festival will feature **Sue Bennett, Leonard Brown, Mario Conway, Harry Hussey, Nigel Pasby & Helen Newton, Helen Rich, Jovan Rynjak, Stewart and Anne Towe, David Vernon, and Rosemary Wright.**

The workshops will be run by Angie Lukins, Jean Hanger and Nigel Pasby.

For further information contact Barry Smith on email: accordions2010@hotmail.co.uk, or phone: 0121 649 5351

CLASSIC KYIV DUO CONCERT

Wednesday August 10th, 7.30pm

Stockport Accordion Club will, on August 10th be welcoming, direct from Ukraine, the wonderful **Classic Kyiv Duo** - Oleksiy Kolomoiets and Igor Sayenko. They both come from Kyiv regularly on UK tours and visited our club last in 2018 when we had an amazing performance from them. All proceeds from their tours at that time went to a charity supporting the disabled babies and children who were affected by the terrible Chernobyl disaster in 1986.



With the country engaged in a war with Russia, the duo had to have special permission to leave to take on this tour, the proceeds of which will go to humanitarian agencies helping in war-torn Ukraine. Sadly this time they won't be visiting us at North Staffs but if you make the effort to go over to Stockport you will not be disappointed.

Oleksiy and Igor usually perform a mainly classical programme, and their albums include music composed by the likes of Tchaikovsky, Vivaldi, Piazzolla, Elgar, etc. although they do include other kinds of music. There will also be short supporting spots from **Helen Rich**, the quartet **Accordion Spice**, and the **Stockport Accordion Band**.

The concert takes place at **Woodley Methodist Church, Chapel St (off the A560), SK6 1NF**. Admission is **£5**, pay at the door, and all are welcome.

ACCORDION JAZZ AT THE PHOENIX

On Wednesday August 27th I went to the weekly jazz evening at the Phoenix Room, Longton Rugby Club, Trentham Lakes, (7-9pm) to see a trio playing some very entertaining, exciting and easy listening jazz. They were **Julian Gregory** and **Matthew Compton** (who are members of the BBC Philharmonic Orchestra, on lead violin and viola respectively) and guitarist **Paul Hartley**. While earning their living in the orchestra they take every opportunity in their spare time to play their beloved jazz and Matthew swaps his viola for the accordion.



Accompanied by Roger Keay on drums and 'Pedro' Robinson (my bass teacher) on bass, they thrilled us with some exciting Gypsy Jazz with numbers made famous by Django Reinhardt and Stéphane Grappelli and lovely tunes like Autumn Leaves, I Wish You Love, I Love Paris, Under Paris Skies, and Dark Eyes – wonderful! If they are in your area, pay them a visit. They are highly recommended.

Lily

Club Nights

Third Tuesday of month 7.30 pm	Bradwell WMC ST5 8JA
August 16 th	Theme Night (Theme – Animal or Bird)
September 20 th	Players' Night (no theme)
October 18 th	AGM and Band Performance
November 15 th	Guest Night – David Vernon
December 20 th	Xmas Party – Barry Schmitt Bavarian Band

Other Events

Weekly Tuesdays 7.30 pm except for 3 rd Tuesday.	Band Rehearsals, Bradwell WMC
2 nd Thursday of month, 2.00 pm	Playing for Pleasure (monthly at various venues)
Monday 8 th August 7.30 pm	Beginners/Improvers, Bradwell WMC
Monday 22 nd August 7.30 pm	Beginners/Improvers, Bradwell WMC
11 th – 13 th November	Midland Accordion Festival, Wolverhampton

Accordion Tuition

John Romero John Romero jr@carillonstudios.com **01606 240148**

Tony Watterson tony.watterson@virginmedia.com **07732 263938**

Anita Basic info @a-leaders.co.uk **07787 567710**

Up-Beat Music Tuition upbeatmusiclessons@gmail.com

Club Management

President	Steve Houghton	01270 768178
Chairman	Steve Hughes	07939 362294
Secretary	Steve Hughes	07939 362294
Treasurer	Tony Britton	07923 580760

John Corden, Susan Edge, Ken Hall, Paul Hobbs, Betty Nixon, Barry Tunnicliffe

Web address - www.northstaffsaccordionclub.com
Editor Lily Lynch email – editor@northstaffsaccordionclub.com

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