

North Staffs Accordion Club Newsletter

March-April 2023

No 505

APRIL CLUBNIGHT
PLAYING CIRCLE
APRIL 18TH

MAY CLUBNIGHT
SONGS WITH
SINGING
MAY 16TH



Hi EVERYONE. I HOPE YOU ARE WELL AND ENJOYING YOUR MUSIC.

WE ARE PLEASED TO WELCOME NEW PLAYERS, BRIAN HORBURY AND CHARLEY WALKER, BOTH OF WHOM ARE EXTENDING THEIR CURRENT MUSIC SKILLS FROM GUITAR AND UKULELE TO THE ACCORDION THROUGH OUR BEGINNERS' SECTION.



FEBRUARY CLUB NIGHT

The theme for the evening was 'Love Songs' and there was no shortage of takers with a respectable attendance of 27 members. Led by Paul Hobbs, we started with our usual warm-up in a playalong, a selection of half a dozen pieces from our '250 All-Time Hits' book with songsheets for the audience, singing led by our compere for the evening, Peter Cowie.



Individual and group players as follows, with background music played by Paul Hobbs in the break.

Steve Hughes

Have I told You Lately, Let It Be Me, No Other Love

Geoff Capewell

Answer Me, Just a Song at Twilight, Ich Liebe Dich

Jacqui Flather

She Loves You, Hopelessly in Love with You, Closest Thing to Crazy

Betty Nixon

The Wonder of You, I Can't Stop Loving You

Quartet – featuring Rosie Galley, Viv Cowie, Jacqui Flather and Tony Britton.

Loch Lomond, Habanera from Carmen, Here I Go Again Godfather Theme

Norman Brown
(above right)

I Love You Because, We Will Make Love, Medley - I'll be Your Sweetheart, Love me Tender, I Can't Stop Loving You

Ann Millward

Hi Lily Hi Lily Hi Lo, April Love, Hello Young Lovers

Viv & Pete Cowie

I Love You Because, I Just Called to Say I Love You, Poem - Little Mrs Earwig (A Les Barker poem about little Mrs Earwig and her son O, which develops into a musical chorus in the form of a well-known chant with the lyrics 'Ere wig O').

Steve Houghton
(above left)

True Love, Some Enchanted Evening, Rhythm of the Rain

Paul Hobbs

Crazy, Chanson D'amour, Can't Take My Eyes off You

Another enjoyable evening came to an end,

MARCH CLUB NIGHT

by Viv Cowie

The eagerly awaited March 2023 club night felt like something of another turning point towards normality after the rigours of Covid and lockdowns.

The band had been practising hard and turned up in great number to make a rare club night appearance. Dressed in full regalia and ready to showcase new material as well as some old favourites, it was a delight to be welcomed by a lively and vociferous audience, the largest for several months! Ably assisted by the antics of our talented MD Steve Houghton and the whooping and cheering from the floor, the band enjoyed a creditable performance which has whetted our appetite for the coming of future planned concerts.



The band was however merely the warm-up act for the appearance of the wonderful Ukrainian accordionist and vocalist, **Roman Voloshchuk** (above). Roman has an impressive CV, being both a classical and folk musician. He has been Choir Master to the National Choir of Ukraine and Conductor of



the National Orchestra and he has given over 500 worldwide concerts.

Roman had not pre-planned his performance for us as he wanted to gauge the mood of his audience. During the course of the evening he proceeded to entertain us with in excess of 40 well known songs from many European countries, encouraging lots of audience participation. Roman is a larger-than-life character who plays his button accordion with such power that he hit 90 decibels on occasions, sending alerts to my iPhone! In contrast to his expertise in playing rafts of huge chords he also demonstrated his skill in playing intricate and delicate passages. His enthusiasm for his instrument and his delight and expertise in entertainment knows no bounds and I left the evening singing and vowing to put more 'gusto' into my playing!

Thank you Roman.

Thanks also to our compere for the evening, Pete Cowie, and congratulations to John Hirst who won the members' attendant award which had reached £30, as there were no winners in the previous two months. The three-year attendance record was one short of 50 and included three from a local Ukrainian group, one of whom was a great friend of Roman's.

APRIL/MAY CLUB NIGHTS

Following our playalong in the April club night we will try out a music 'circle' where players play a solo in turn until they drop out or we run out of time. It is many years since we last did this and it will be interesting to see the response and whether we should do this again in the future.

In May, our theme will be '**Song accompanied by Singing**', either your own voice or that of another (or others).

Knutsford Accordion Day 2023

Experience an exciting day of accordion indulgence led by **Anita Bašić and Anna Leskelä**. Full details available from info@northstaffsaccordionclub.com

The Knutsford Accordion Day is getting closer and the bookings taken include some from fantastic players who have agreed to give a performance in the afternoon concert.

Though the majority of our members know most of the players from their visits to our club, the information provided will be informative for the many new members we have had the good fortune to enrol over recent years. The following will be the lineup.



Stefan Andrusyshyn

Stefan enjoyed dabbling on the family piano from an early age and was given a 96 bass ladies model accordion when he was about 6 years old so that he could join in with the Ukrainian dancing community. This was followed by a 48 bass Parrot on his 8th birthday and at 10 he joined Betty Pollard's Tameside children's accordion band having lessons from conductor, Brian Jenkins.

Ray Bodell carried on with the teaching and he has also been taught by Professors Oleg Sharov and Owen Murray with their different styles. He has had several competition achievements.

Stefan, blind from birth, learns from recordings. This has an inherent problem in that the recording is the interpretation of the player, so he tries to get more than one recording to get different interpretations. New music, where there is no recording, is a problem and on occasions he has contacted composers, some of whom are very helpful.

Julie Best

Julie was a pupil at the Ronmar School of Music in Carlisle and under the guidance of Ron Hodgson gained her ABCA & LBCA Performer's Diploma from the BCA. She was placed 3rd in the All Britain Senior Solo, and was the leader of Ron's orchestra for many years. Julie is a popular performer at a wide range of musical events not only as a soloist but as part of a duet with Jean Corrighan and a newly formed accordion quartet which also includes Helen Rich & Anne-Marie Devine.



Ben Cobb (Finland)

Fifteen year old Ben, from Finland, will be staying with his grandparents in Liverpool on a visit to see the (Ukrainian) Eurovision Song Contest. Fortunate planning means that he is able to get to our Accordion Day on this visit. He was smitten with the instrument at an earlier age but was only allowed to play the accordion from the age of five! Ben has performed and competed internationally in Finland, UK and Latvia. He plays all genres of music from Baroque to contemporary and folk music and regularly plays in care homes for the elderly. He always travels with an accordion,

even on safari!

Johnny-Lee Leslie

Johnny-Lee has been the United Kingdom accordion champion across several categories, including the musette class, recital and virtuoso, and more recently was awarded the Roland 'V' Accordion UK champion. He has also competed in the 'Coupe Mondiale' and 'Trophee Mondiale' international accordion competitions.



Knutsford Accordion Day
Accordion workshop and concert for
accordionists of all abilities
Bring your accordion for a fun-filled event

featuring
Anita Bašić
Workshop Leader

10am - 5pm
Sunday
14th May
2023

assisted by
Anna Leskelä

at
Marthall Village Hall
Sandlebridge Lane
Knutsford, WA16 7SB

Tickets £20
available from
Steve Hughes

Alzheimer's
Research
UK

email: info@northstaffsaccordionclub.com
text: 07939 362294

In aid of Alzheimer's Research UK



Helen Rich

Helen was born in West Cumbria and began playing the accordion, 6 months after her brother, when she was about 6 years old. They had lessons in Workington and the Ronmar School of Music in Carlisle, taking part in NAO competitions, also winning one for a composition. She also plays the violin and played both instruments in folk groups which took her on tour in Czechoslovakia, Hungary, France and Turkey and even busking in Budapest Paris and Vienna. Helen is a regular guest artist at accordion festivals and clubs in the UK having a wide repertoire in many musical genres.

ACCORDION REPAIR GROUP

Three members of the accordion repair group, (left to right) are **John Corden, Peter Cowie and Steve Hughes**, meeting for the first time this year now that the weather is improving. Over the winter John and Peter have been busy making tuning bellows, one manual and the other electrically operated. The main project of the day was removing a drone from the stradella bass (aka bird's nest) for one of the club members. We think that the instrument mistook itself for a bagpipe.



The club has had donations of 'loft' accordions and currently has a healthy stock, four of which are out on our '3 month's free loan' scheme advertised locally. Many of the accordions are good instruments but the only value of some of the others is for training purposes or 'organ transplant' fodder. To alleviate the storage problems we are planning to take a few to a local auction for club funds (revenue expected to be modest).



BAND'S FIRST BIG CONCERT OF 2023

The first external concert of 2023 will be at **St Luke's Church, Clayton, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 4BH** on Friday 14th April. It is a charity concert to raise money for church funds. This has all been planned by our drummer, Phil Hodges, who also happens to be the treasurer of the church! We look forward to the usual warm reception and interval refreshments that we get on our visits there, adding to the pleasure of making music and airing the new pieces in our repertoire.

If you would like to come along, you are welcome. Entry is £5.00 (which includes refreshments) and the concert begins at 7.30p

Pauline Capewell

Our condolences go to member Geoff Capewell and family following the death of his wife, Pauline, after a long illness. Longstanding members will remember her as a regular supporter of the club band and at club nights and the 'Playing for Pleasure' group. May she rest in peace.

Diary

Third Tuesday of month 7.30 pm	Bradwell WMC ST5 8JA
April 18th	Players' Night
May 16th	Theme – song accompanied by singing
June 20th	Players' Night
July 18th	Julie Best and Jean Corrighan

Other Events

Weekly Tuesdays 7.30 pm except for 3 rd Tue	Band Rehearsals, Bradwell WMC
Monthly 2 nd Tuesday 2pm	Playing for Pleasure (on hold)
Monday 3 rd Apr 7.30 pm	Beginners/Improvers, Bradwell WMC
Friday 14th Apr 7.30 pm	Band Concert at St Luke's Methodist Church, Clayton
Monday 24 th Apr 7.30 pm	Beginners/Improvers, Bradwell WMC
Monday 6 th May 7.30 pm	Beginners/Improvers, Bradwell WMC
Monday 22 nd May 7.30 pm	Beginners/Improvers, Bradwell WMC
Sunday 14th May	Knutsford Accordion Day
Tuesday 6th Jun 7.15 pm	Band Concert at St Dominic's Church, Stone (Stone Festival)

Club Management

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

John Corden, Rosie Galley, Betty Nixon,
Miriam Umpleby

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