

# North Staffs Accordion Club



## The North Staffs Accordion Club

welcomes all accordion enthusiasts playing or non-playing.

We hold a 'Clubnite' at

at 8 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month

where entertainment is provided by club members or guest artists.

We have a band rehearsal all other Tuesdays

and a beginners' class every Monday at 7.30 pm and a class for schoolchildren on Mondays 5 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Phone 01782 823668.

Theme  
nights  
June  
**WALTZES**  
August  
**MUSIC NOT  
PLAYED  
BEFORE**

**COMING  
SOON**

**All at Goldenhill  
Workingmen's  
Club**

**July Clubnite**

**THE KYIV  
DUO**

**WORLD CLASS  
UKRAINIAN ARTISTS**

**SUPPORTED BY THE  
NORTH STAFFS ACCORDION BAND**

**8.00PM  
TICKETS £4.00**



HI EVERYONE I HOPE THAT YOU ARE WELL AND THAT THE WEATHER IS SUITING YOU.



## MAY CLUBNITE



Our May clubnite took place at the Goldenhill Workingmen's Club and our guest artist for the evening was the one and only **John Romero**, who now lives 'locally' at Middlewich having moved up from Eastbourne.

When I arrived at the Goldenhill club at about 6.30 pm on our clubnite, John was already there setting-up his equipment. He's a seasoned professional and a perfectionist, so everything has to be just right.

John (above left) plays a 120 bass Fantini 4 voice double cassotto accordion. It has light

musette tuning and has been fitted with a 'state of the art' midi system (Asimov). The midi system drives a Yamaha Tyros IV keyboard, so he has a multitude of different sounds and rhythm patterns at his disposal. Furthermore, he has a camera focused onto his accordion, so that the audience can see his finger movements on a large screen while he's playing. I understand that this visual technique is often used at keyboard club concerts but this is the first time that it's been used at our club.

Over the course of the evening John used his midi based system to play, among others, the following music.....

**Nut Rocker** – made famous by **Bee Bumble and the Stingers**

**The Shadows' Apache**

**Cavatina**

**Lolita** (a competition piece)

**Romance**

**Brazil**

**Tico, Tico**

**Secret Garden**

**Black and White Rag**



The very atmospheric *1492: Conquest of Paradise Theme* by Vangelis

*Bel Viso*

A 40s medley: *Tuxedo Junction*, *Moonlight Serenade* and *American Patrol*

The film theme from *One Minute to Zero* – *When I Fall in Love*

I thoroughly enjoyed John's programme and I found his sound system a nice change from an evening of pure acoustic accordion.

We had a raffle during the interval with nine prizes - all donated by the audience. What wonderful people we've got at our club!

**Wilf Bailey** (*above right*) played for about 15 minutes after the interval, followed by **Paul Hobbs** (*right*), and their playing was enjoyed by all.

Wilf played..

Jimmy Shand's *6.20 Two Step* (signature tune of the **White Heather Club**)

*The Francis Wright Waltz*

*The Merry Widow Waltz*

*Climb Every Mountain* and

Peter Hayward's *The Dragon Fly*.

Paul then played..

*All of Me*,

*These Foolish Things*,

*A Certain Smile* and

*Danny Boy*.

John took to the stage for his final spot at about 9.45 and the evening came to an end with an encore from John at about 10.30.

We had another great night of accordion entertainment but unfortunately the attendance was lower than expected, 34 people, so we didn't cover our costs.

The concert room at the Goldenhill Workingmen's Club is a very pleasant venue and it can accommodate a lot of people, so we need to work hard as a club to increase the attendance at our concerts. After all, we've got almost 70 club members, so (with spouses and friends) we should be able to generate a sizable audience. Please do your best!

**Mike.**

## JUNE THEME NIGHT

This is just a final reminder that the June clubnite is another theme night – **Waltzes**. This is where we expect players to include a waltz in their programme, which, I am sure, will not be too difficult.

There will also be the playing circle, so please remember to bring your accordions.

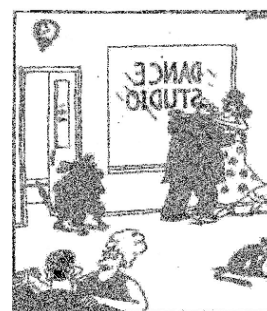
## RETURN OF THE KYIV DUO



Following their visit in 2013, the **Kyiv Duo** from Kiev, Ukraine, have been booked for our July clubnite to be held at the Goldenhill Workingmen's Club as part of their UK tour. Those who saw them two years ago witnessed some spectacular keyboard acrobatics and no doubt this will again be the case. Here is a comment from my newsletter report after their last visit in 2013.....

*Our Ukrainian guests followed and gave a most splendid performance. Their playing was dynamic and full of panache and joy and it was certainly a performance to remember. Their wonderful love of the accordion shone through and their playing was packed with passion and fun. I particularly enjoyed the selection from **Peer Gynt** – especially **Morning** which took my mind back to my childhood dance class where this was a favourite. Although language was a challenge, Igor made good contact with the audience and took pains to announce and comment on each piece.*

Our club band will also take part.





The duo, **Oleksiy Kolomoiets** and **Igor Sayenko**, use their musical skills to raise money for a charity which supports families with disabled children in Igor's home town affected by the Chernobyl nuclear disaster and donate their takings from the tour to this cause. Profits from our clubnite will also be donated.

Back home Igor plays with the Rizole Quartet within the National Philharmonic Society of Ukraine and Olegsiy is a member of the Orchestra of Folk and Popular Music of the National Radio Company of Ukraine.

**We would like as many of you as possible to support this concert and to that end tickets are included with an envelope for payment.** Please make out your cheques to the **North Staffs Accordion Club** or if you prefer you can pay for them at the June clubnite, where you can also purchase any extra tickets.

## GRAHAM'S AND GEOFF'S ADVENTURES IN BLACKPOOL

### REPORT FROM GRAHAM HUGHES

Geoff Millward (*pictured left*) and I have just got back from five nights at the Blackpool Accordion Festival and I have eaten too much, drunk far too many bottles of pop (purely medicinal of course) and walked too many miles around the shops in Blackpool and Fleetwood market and come back home 'skint' and tired – oh! and had a great time at the festival.



On the first night we got reacquainted and chewed the fat with our friends from Southern Ireland, Susanne, Al and Christy and from Windsor, David and Lorraine, who live near the castle and when they are short on supplies David nips round to the castle and borrows a cup of sugar from Her Majesty, although he won't admit to it. We have a great time together but we each do our own thing. Geoff and Al like to join in the bands and this time I think it was Scottish

music with David Vernon, a famous Scottish player, the mixed ability orchestra with Rosemary Wright and a buskers' band with Bert Santilly, all known to our club.

To give you some idea of the evening entertainment, from Italy we had Giancarlo Caporilli and Gennaro Ruffolo, France provided Jean Dauvin and his lovely wife, who sang to his brilliant playing, and Jean and Steve Roxton formed a duo. Stoke-on-Trent was represented by Denise Leigh singing accompanied by her husband Stefan Andrusyshyn.



Geoff Millward was magical in the bands, (I am his carer so anything he asks me to do I will because it keeps him good). We had Alan Young from the Isle of Wight and of course Heather Smith who pulls the whole lot together. Heather herself is a top class player. I think our old friend Harry Hussey is one of the best players around and you could catch Harry playing at any time, day or night.

There is something for everyone and we are certainly looking forward to going again next year.

*(Pictured above – late night entertainment – members of the Festival Jazz Band).*

**Graham Hughes**

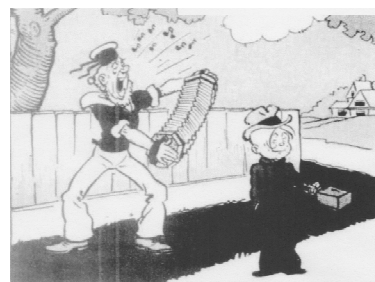
## JOYS OF A MEDITERRANEAN SQUEEZE

BY STEVE HUGHES

I know it's sad, but on a cruise last month I actually gave up lounging in the sun by one of the swimming pools to learn how to play (to some extent), of all things, the diatonic (Anglo) concertina.

The cruise set off from Southampton with three days at sea and a couple we were with pointed out that there was a concertina course on board. Thus.... leaving Beryl and our friends to their own devices I set off to find out more.

The session was to last an hour and they had about 20 brand spanking new



instruments set out waiting for someone to pick one up and join the group. In the event there were about 12 takers, some had some musical knowledge either as piano or guitar players, and others without any. The session was led by a Ukrainian pianist, Alexander, who, I subsequently found out, also played the accordion. He was a superb musician and the leader of a piano, guitar and violin trio who played daily in the main hall of the ship. Obviously a devil for punishment - he had gone from the sublime to the ridiculous!

Alexander was a competent tutor at our level, though he had not tried the instrument prior to coming on board! He had prepared some music for us, showing the notes and indicating which hand to use, whether it was a push or a pull, and where there was a rest and whether there was a push or pull with the air button to get or expel enough air for the next phrase! (I idly wondered what would happen if I confused my



pushes with my pulls ....perhaps a visit to the medical bay!) Seriously, he wanted us to learn the music he had selected, ***O Sole Mio***, and wanted us to play in public with his trio on the day before disembarking. We were not allowed to take the instrument to our cabin with us (possibly a good thing!) and at one hour a day on each of the six 'sea' days; 6 hours of practice.

Having the different note on a button push to the pull of the same button, everyone found the diatonic concertina to be a very difficult instrument to play and although I can play the

harmonica (the cows in our local field would gladly give testimony to that fact – but that's another story!), which has the same principle (blow suck blow suck blow suck suck blow), I also found it hard. The number of players dwindled to 4 or so on the second day and over the remaining days stayed at about that level. On some days one or two new faces might turn up to have a go and others leave. Only three of us stayed the course to the end, Joe from California who ended up accompanying us on ukulele, Paddy from Toronto and yours truly, UK, and during those 6 days we added another piece of music, ***When the Saints go Marching In*** and some harmony for both pieces. On the last couple of days we were joined by the guitar and violin players and at 9 pm, on our last day of the cruise, performed to a crowded hall.

To say that it was faultless would be a downright lie, but the sections of the arrangement where the trio played without us and at a fast tempo gave it some respectability. It was nice to have the crowds joining in by clapping as we played, and with hoots of appreciation at the end, but I suspect that this was largely due to their good nature and the amount of alcohol consumed by that time of night. During the cruise we had made friends with a retired double bass player and his wife who played and taught the violin, both of them ex Halle Orchestra players. I was very glad that through their restaurant schedule they missed this performance!

*(Pictured above is long suffering Alexander together with Paddy from Toronto and yours truly).*

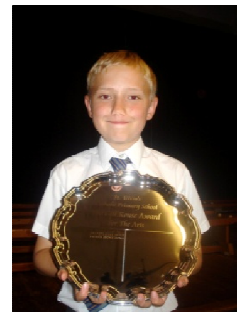
## PATRICK TAKES A SABBATICAL

You may recall seeing a young budding accordionist by the name of Patrick at the Holditch... well he has temporarily hung up his accordion (under peer pressure) to focus on his trombone.

Since starting high school, Patrick has joined the St. Joseph's Junior Orchestra on trombone and will play at the year seven Christmas concert at the Victoria Hall... The junior orchestra practises once a week at lunchtime, so this fits in nicely, no staying late after school. .

We are all hoping that playing the accordion will be fashionable again and Patrick will increase his street cred, impressing his mates with a few tunes. . .

*(Patrick is pictured receiving an award for his contribution to music at St Teresa Primary school).*



**Helen Brown (mum)**

## A MESSAGE FROM MADEIRA

Chairman Mike and Barbara have emailed to say that they are 'having a lovely time in sunny Madeira' and they wished to send their regards to you all. This year they only booked two seats on the plane and so Mike's trusty accordion has sadly had to stay at home. Maybe next year....

## Diary

Every Monday 5.00pm-6.00 pm	Accordion classes for young players at Holditch
Every Monday 7.30 p.m.	Beginners'/Improvers' night at the Holditch
Tuesdays other than 3 <sup>rd</sup> 8.00pm	Band rehearsal at Bradwell Workingmen's Club
Every 3rd Tuesday of month 8.00pm	Clubnite at Goldenhill Workingmen's Club
2nd Thursday of month 12 noon	Chord Workshop
2nd Thursday of month 1 p.m.	Solo Session both at Bradwell WMC
June 16th	Theme Night - 'Waltzes'
July 21st	Kyiv Duo (Ukraine)
August 18th	Theme Night - 'Music not played before'
September 15th	AGM
October 20th	John Stuart Scottish Dance Band
Nov 7 <sup>th</sup> to 9th	Midlands Accordion Festival, Dudley
December 15th	Combined Xmas and 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party

## Members' Adverts

**Pauline Hardwick** Tel **01782 397248** accordion and/or piano  
**Stefan Andrusyschyn** Tel **07958261024** accordion and/or piano  
**Mike Gibson** Tel **01782 660865** piano  
**John Romero** Tel **01606 270148** accordion

## For Sale

**Roland FR-18 Diatonic V-Accordion** for sale **£1000** tel. **01625 432530**

**Barcarole Dominante 96** bass, 11 treble, 3 bass couplers. Includes case and is in good working order - only needs seeing. **£250** (no offers). Phone **01782 323046**

**Fratelli Alessandrini modern accordion.** Blue. 96 bass, 4 voice, musette, 9 treble couplers, 3 bass couplers, Hohner gig bag, full decoration, miked for amplification. Modern keyboard – black notes are blue.

**£1800.** Tel. Rob Borrett **07428 079752**

President	Brian Shufflebotham	
Chairman	Mike Richards	01782 642101
Secretary	Steve Hughes	01782 787935
Treasurer	Mike Richards (acting)	01782 642101

### Committee

Tony Britton, Helen Brown, Graham Butler, Graham Hughes,  
Lily Lynch and Greta Moseley.

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 Editor Lily Lynch email - **accordions@northstaffsaccordionclub.co.uk**