

# 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.



**All clubnites  
at Goldenhill  
Workingmen's  
Club**



**HI EVERYONE. I HOPE YOU ARE WELL AND STARTING TO THINK ABOUT CHRISTMAS. HERE'S A JOKE TO GET YOU IN THE MOOD...**

**WHAT IS SANTA'S FAVOURITE PIZZA?**

**ANSWER: ONE THAT'S DEEP PAN, CRISP AND EVEN.**



## OCTOBER CLUBNITE



The John Stuart Scottish Dance Band trio, all the way from Aberdeenshire, were the guest artists at our October clubnite. The band featured John on the accordion, Aileen Jamieson on the piano and Willie James on the fiddle. Scottish music is very popular with many of our members so, as you'd expect, the attendance at our clubnite was very good. We had a great night with lots of toe-tapping dance tunes such as *Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee*, *The Duke of Perth Medley* and many others. The trio also played a few slower numbers such as *Dark Island* and

from time-to-time John interspersed the music with a few jokes. A great night was had by all and your very own North Staffs Accordion Band provided a bit more variety to the evening when they played for about 30 minutes after the interval.

During the interval we had an excellent raffle with lots of prizes and Helen had taken the trouble to bake and provide some shortbread. The shortbread was very tasty but unfortunately Helen had underestimated the demand (more people in the audience than she expected), so perhaps she'll make some for our November clubnite. As usual, Graham had a table full of music on display (books and individual manuscripts). This music has been donated to our club by various people over the years, so it is available to all our club members for a small donation to club funds.

Our next clubnite is on Tuesday the 17th November at Goldenhill. We don't have a guest artist so members can take a turn at providing the entertainment and in addition we should have a playing circle, some more shortbread, music books and manuscripts on display and plenty of raffle prizes.

**Mike.**

## NOVEMBER CLUBNITE

Just a reminder that the November clubnite at the Goldenhill Workingmen's Club will be for duet and group playing with a wish that players team up with another member or non-member instrumentalist or vocalist.

Don't worry if you haven't found someone to play with - just bring your accordion and I'm sure we'll fit you in.

## BOSLEY CONCERT

The **North Staffs Accordion Band** and the **Bosley Choir** are presenting a joint concert on **Friday November 13<sup>th</sup>, 8pm**, at **St Mary's Church, Bosley, Macclesfield SK11 0NX**, in aid of the Bosley mill fire disaster. Widely covered by the national media, an explosion and fire at Wood Treatment Limited, Bosley, in July caused a four-storey building to collapse claiming the lives of four workers. Temperatures reached 1000C in the blast and it was described by rescuers as the 'worst incident of its kind' in a decade. The owners have since made all 20 staff redundant. Moneys raised will go to the fund to help the families.

Tickets cost **£7.50** obtainable from Silvia on **01260 223519**, or pay at the door.

## ANNUAL BROKEN CROSS CHARITY CONCERT



**In aid of the East Cheshire Hospice,  
December 4<sup>th</sup>**

**The Stockport Accordion Club's** big annual charity fund raising concert takes place on **Friday December 4<sup>th</sup>** at the **Broken Cross Club** in **Macclesfield**. In addition to the **Stockport Accordion Club Band** (MD Derek Stubbs), also performing are **Pearl Fawcett-Adriano**, **Helen Rich**, and the North Staffs Accordion Club duo **Mike Richards & Paul Hobbs**. Mike and Paul are making their Broken Cross debut

and we wish them well. The concert has been an annual event since 1999, all proceeds are in aid of the East Cheshire Hospice, and yet another brilliant evening of accordion music is in prospect. All are welcome.

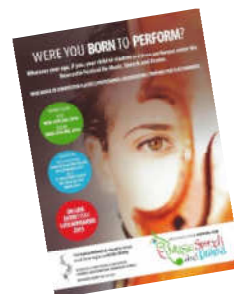


Tickets are available from the organiser

**John Jones** on **07871 767708**.

## NEWCASTLE FESTIVAL FOR MUSIC, SPEECH AND DRAMA 2016

A new website for **Newcastle Festival for Music, Speech and Drama** will be launched on the 14<sup>th</sup> of this month which, for the first time, will include online entry. Our secretary, Steve Hughes, is also secretary for the festival (a busy man) and has been the leading figure for introducing the online system. The entry deadline is the 25<sup>th</sup> of January and although our band usually competes, Steve would also love to see individuals doing so in the instrument section, especially the young players 'to show the world what the accordion can do'.



## DON'T GIVE UP THE DAY JOB!

I received a phone call from a pal of mine last Saturday to ask if I was going to Leek Market because another stall holder had a 'squeezebox' on his stall and he didn't know what to ask price-wise - so would I take a look at it and try to put a price on it. I pointed out that I really didn't think I could help because I haven't enough knowledge to venture an opinion but he said just take a look anyway. Leek is a place my wife and I visit most Saturdays and we duly arrived, my friend spotted me and took me to the squeeze box. I knew the owner having had a market stall there myself in the past.



The accordion took pride of place at the front of the stall. It was a beautiful vintage 96 bass Scandali. It was white with seven treble couplers and two bass couplers and its condition was immaculate, even the case was like brand new. I was asked to play it to see if there was anything wrong with it so I put it on and played a couple of tunes. What I hadn't realised was that a very small crowd of people had gathered and when I took the box off I got a round of applause which I think was sympathy, but someone had put an old cap on the floor with an old penny in it. You think you have friends!

Today Leek, next week who knows?

**Graham Hughes**



# ROEBUCK CENTRE CAROLS

In the run up to Christmas, the club players will be playing carols inside the Roebuck Shopping Centre in Newcastle under Lyme. It will be near the cafe and if you feel like coming along and joining in the carol singing – please do. It will be on December 5<sup>th</sup> from 12.00pm – 2.00pm.

## Christmas Party

The joint Christmas and 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party will be held on our December clubnite, Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, starting at the earlier time of 7.30 p.m.



The evening will start with the mass carol playing by our members with song-sheets for the audience. The youth section will also make an appearance during the evening with their selection of Christmas songs. Ticket ordering details are below.

This year **Barry Schmitt and his Bavarian Band** will be our guest artists, bringing a Bavarian/Christmas twist to the occasion. The programme will be adjusted on the hoof to suit the ambience of the evening fitting in dancing to suit the occasion. Barry certainly knows how to get a party swinging and, ladies, I think we may be treated to some lederhosen clad legs again!

Not forgetting, of course, our Christmas buffet with an ‘accordion’ cake as we will also be marking the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our club and this party will set you up for the Christmas festivities to follow, if not for the whole year ahead.

Do book your place, and help to make this a night to remember.

## BOOK YOUR TICKETS

Tickets are available now for the **Christmas/Anniversary Party** in December and the **Harry Hussey/Lily’s Weepers Jazz Night** in January. They can be purchased at the November clubnite or booked by phone or email from Steve Hughes (01782 787935 [stevehg0@gmail.com](mailto:stevehg0@gmail.com)).

**Christmas party tickets £8.50**

**Jazz tickets £4.00** - which includes mince pies, Christmas cake and sherry.

Both events will be held at the Goldenhill Workingmen’s Club, ST6 5SH. Please book early as we need to know the catering requirements well in advance for both nights.

## THE JAZZ NIGHT...

...features well known jazz tunes from **Harry Hussey and Lily’s Weepers**, and for the last couple of years it has been a sell-out. This year we have a larger and more pleasant venue and there will be more information in the next newsletter.



## OCTOBER BAND CONCERTS



The band played twice last month. The first time was at Brown Edge Village Hall. It was a fund raiser and was a pie and pea evening. Sadly, I think for ease of serving food, the audience were seated in the back half of the room leaving the band feeling a little cut off.

The second venue was Bagnall Heights Retirement Village where we have performed three or four times in the past. We are always made most

welcome there and were generously fed during the interval. This event was to raise funds for First Responders and the audience were very close this time – and enjoyed the concert, and the singing, very much.

## ACCORDION DONATION

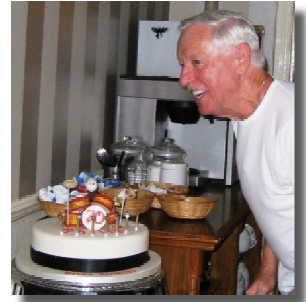
A big thank you to member **Mike Fisher** who has donated a 72 bass Hohner Arietta 1M to the club. It has already been in use by a gentleman who was having his own accordion fixed and wanted to carry on practising. It is available to any member who may have such an issue.

## BAND HELP PHIL CELEBRATE

On October 23<sup>rd</sup>, Phil Hodges, our drummer, invited the band to help him celebrate his 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was at Trentham Park Golf Club and there was a luscious buffet set out for about a hundred friends and family. There was also a disco and it was nice for the band to meet socially for once.

We felt very honoured when, during Phil's speech, we (the band) were referred to as a group of extremely talented musicians. I did idly wonder if that comment would sit well within the Trade Descriptions Act ..... but soon dismissed it and tucked into my onion bhaji.

*Phil is pictured above having just blown out the candles on his cake which was decorated on top with a drummer and full drum kit made from icing.*



## ARTISTIC TALENTS



Our members have many hidden talents. As well as the love of playing the accordion, these talents include arts and crafts of varying forms. In this month's newsletter we focus on paintings and a taster of things to come.

Our budding artists this month include **Ann Fieldhouse** – *Fighting Hares*, **Gordon Hunter** – *Seascape*, **Jean Austin** – *Prince Charles*, and **Tony Britton** – *Ladies In Hats*. We hope to feature more artists in future newsletters and more talents loosely defined by arts and crafts. For example we have Tony's garden sculpture of an owl (made out of old materials). He used artistic licence by giving it two heads facing in opposite directions to represent the owl's ability to turn its head full circle



So, calling all club members, tell us about your talents, whether it be needlework, woodwork, pottery, etcetera. You never know, we may have a future Picasso or Henry Moore amongst us.

**Tony Britton**



*Having recently taken almost a year to knit my daughter, Sarah, a pair of socks I was impressed to hear of Joyce Butler's creative efforts and asked her to tell us about them. Lily*

## JOYCE KNITS UP A STORM

Joyce, wife of our accordion doctor, band and solo player Graham Butler, has her own story of skill to tell with a life of knitting behind her, and she's still at it.



She started knitting during the years leading up to the war at the age of 4. Her mother started her off with a ball of string which she knitted into squares which were used as dishcloths. As news got about, soon all the relatives, friends and neighbours wanted these dishcloths and Joyce was kept busy at this young age.

Her skill developed and when she was in her late teens the hobby gave cupid a nudge. Graham and Joyce went to the same youth club in Butt Lane and one day she turned up in a white and blue willow pattern Fair Isle jumper. Graham asked her where she'd bought it and on being told that she'd made it herself asked her if she'd make one for him.

Her reply was, “You get me a pattern and the wool and I’ll make you one”. The next week (with his mum’s assistance) he turned up with the required objects and, as the cliché goes, *the rest is history*.

Over the years she has made hundreds of knitted garments for the family, grandchildren and now great grandchildren, one of the latter, just finished, is shown in the photo on the previous page. For about seventeen years she knitted clothes for the Stoke hospital for premature babies, taking a bundle to the hospital before Christmas each year. They used to lay them out on tables for sale with the proceeds going to the hospital department. She gave this up only when the policy of the hospital changed and they would no longer accept them.

Multi-tasking, she always has knitting needles and wool on the go whenever she is watching the telly.

*PS As there is a spare inch or so left to fill in this newsletter, I thought I’d add my socks. After much procrastinating and empty promises, I made an enormous effort and finished them on the eve of Sarah’s birthday last week. I owe much to the kind help of Silvia Fisher, who managed to get her head round my self-taught, back to front, upside down, bizarre, left handed style of knitting! Lily*



## Diary

Every Monday 5.00pm-6.00 pm	Accordion classes for young players at the 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 1 p.m.	Solo Session, Bradwell Workingmen’s Club
Friday November 13th	Bosley Charity Concert, Leek Old Road, Bosley, Macclesfield, SK11 0NX
Nov 17th	Clubnite Theme: Duets
December 4th	Stockport Accordion Club’s charity concert at the Broken Cross Club in Macclesfield,
December 15th	Combined Xmas and 30 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party
January 19 <sup>th</sup> 2016	Harry Hussey and Lily’s Weepers
April 19th	Richard Adey

## Members’ Adverts

### Accordion Tuition.

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**

**Yamaha** keyboard with stand. PRS E303. Excellent condition. **£60.** Contact Wilf Bailey tel **01270 213643**

**Italian-made Casali** 16 bass with box, good bellows and is nice for folk music

Also a vintage concertina/accordion in fair condition

Offers please. Tel. **01782 776431.**

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

### Committee

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

Web address - [www.northstaffsaccordionclub.co.uk](http://www.northstaffsaccordionclub.co.uk)

Editor Lily Lynch email - [accordions@northstaffsaccordionclub.co.uk](mailto:accordions@northstaffsaccordionclub.co.uk)