



BRENDA AND THE BOYS

REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of figures from Bradford's music scene, DEREK AJ LISTER, looks back at Brenda Martine:

It all began in the front room of 5 Newhill Close, on Parkside Estate, in about 1960. Two friends, Malcolm Husband and Eric Holt, purchased guitars and decided to learn to play them with the help of the popular Bert Weedon guitar book ('play in a day'). The Shadows were all the rage, with their Apache chart-topper, so these two young men had a lot to live up to. A helping hand to keep the beat was provided by Malcolm's brother Dennis, using his mother's pans and wooden spoons as a drum-kit. Similar scenes were enacted all over the UK!

After a polite request from Malcolm's mum, practice sessions were moved to his sister Marjorie's house in Little Horton Lane. As time progressed it was decided to form a group, and his mum and dad supplied Dennis with a drum kit from the Grattan catalogue, and a Selmer amplifier from Harmony House in Morley Street (weekly payments, of course). Much practice was required, and with the addition of bass guitarist Bernard Brophy, a group began to form. Practice took place at Sedbergh Boys Club in West Bowling, with the stipulation that they perform at the club (free of charge) at the Friday dance



night. The group still had no name. Then a club member who was a singer, Cedric Ludlum, and Brenda Husband, sister of Malcolm and Dennis, joined as vocalists, with Cedric naming the group Los Angeles and the Four Tombstones. This name only lasted one booking, at Bolton Youth Club.

A reassessment came when excellent vocalist Cliff Martin joined the group. Finally, with Cliff Martin, vocals, Brenda Husband, vocals, Malcolm Husband, rhythm guitar, Eric Holt, lead guitar, Bernard Brophy, bass guitar, and Dennis Husband, drums, they were named Cliff and Brenda with the

Dominators. The name was synonymous with the Bradford rock 'n' roll scene in the early 1960s. They moved to The Fountain pub for rehearsals and were soon performing on the working men's club circuit. They also had regular bookings at local dance halls, including the Majestic and the

Brenda Martine singing with The Dominators. Derek and Reuben Davison profile singers, bands and musicians from Bradford's 1950s and 60s music scene on their website: www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk

Mecca Locarno on Manningham Lane, where they had a regular monthly spot. Until 1963 they were among the most popular groups in the area, with a large following and fan club. It was around this time that lead guitarist Eric Holt left, replaced by the ex-Dingo Kenny Fowler. With Kenny the group's music changed to incorporate the Mersey Sound, with Chuck Berry and Chet Atkins numbers added to the repertoire. Sadly in 1963 much-respected bass player Bernard Brophy suddenly died. His place was taken by the popular Steve (Red) Williams, formerly of the Mel Clarke Four. Back on the usual circuit the group was a tremendous success, and ventured into Lancashire clubs. In 1966 bass player Red decided to leave. Brenda and Cliff married and set up home in East Bowling. Kenny Fowler also left, replaced by lead guitarist Mick Brook. Paul Young replaced Malcolm Husband on rhythm guitar. It was one of those transitional periods which most groups went through, when they had to decide whether to carry on or disband. The group soldiered on until 1968, when it folded. Cliff and Brenda with the Dominators is still remembered with affection.

Brenda Husband lived on the Parkside estate, after leaving school she was a wages clerk. As Brenda Martine, she continued to sing in Bradford. Sadly Brenda passed away in 2024, another star of yesteryear when Bradford rocked.

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