

# MUSIC MAN WAS A ROCK WRITER

## REMEMBER WHEN

IN the latest of his profiles of movers and shakers of Bradford's rock 'n' roll scene, DEREK AJ LISTER profiles former Telegraph & Argus journalist CHRIS CHARLESWORTH.

Chris Charlesworth was born in 1947 in Bingley. In 1950 his family moved to Skipton, and he later attended St Peter's School in York.

At the age of 10 Chris first came under the spell of rock 'n' roll when he heard Little Richard singing Tutti Frutti. In 1963 he saw The Beatles at the Gaumont in Bradford, which inspired him to buy a guitar.

A year later he was the rhythm guitarist with Sandra and the Montanas. Later he was with Skipton group the Rocking Pandas (Mark II) for a short time - this was a short-lived second line-up that followed the original Rocking Pandas, who had existed for two years.

As well as playing rhythm guitar, violin and bass guitar, Chris is a talented writer. After training as a journalist,



Chris, far left, playing with The Montanas

Omnibus Press, whose editorial fortunes he has guided ever since - having commissioned and edited more than 500 rock and pop books, probably more than anyone else in the world.

Outside Omnibus, Chris's long association with The Who resulted in his compiling and co-producing their 30 Years of Maximum R&B box set, released in 1995.

Although he was now mostly occupied with book ideas, and editing the work of other writers, Chris's occasional musings have appeared in Record Collector, national papers and on RBP.

Sixty years on, the lad from Bingley lives in a village near Guildford, Surrey, with his wife, Lisa, and family.

\* Derek AJ Lister and his friend collaborator, musician Reuben Davison, have profiled singers, bands and musicians from Bradford's 1950s and 60s music scene in their website. Visit [www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk](http://www.whenbradfordrocked.co.uk)

Chris joined the Telegraph & Argus - and wrote their first pop column in 1968. Two years later he became a full-time music writer on the staff of Melody Maker, first as their news editor and in 1973 as

their US editor, based in New York. In seven years, he interviewed and wrote just about every rock icon of the era, and his sole regret is never seeing Elvis. After a spell working for a

management company in New York and at RCA in London, Chris began writing books, including biographies of The Who, David Bowie, Deep Purple, Slade and Cat Stevens. In 1983 he became the editor of

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